ABOVE: Piano wrecking in Kenfig!

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Bridgend disabled clubs go for gold!

ABOVE: Two local clubs were transported by Bridgend Lions to take part in district games – and both clubs were among the medals. *(TURN TO PAGE 6 FOR A FULL REPORT).*

MAESTEG MAN DIES AS A VAN PLUNGES INTO RIVER

A 21-year-old Maesteg man died when the van in which he was a passenger left the road and plunged into the River Llynfi.

Lee William Rose died at 2am on Sunday, August 16, when a white VW Caddy left the Bridgend Road in Maesteg and fell into the River Llynfi near to the junction with Ewenny Road.

Lee was pronounced dead at the scene, while a 33-year-old female passenger received serious but not life threatening injuries and is detained at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

The 21-year-old male driver of the van was arrested on two driving-related offences, and was later released on bail pending further enquiries.

Lee's family have paid a moving tribute to him:

Dad Brian, mum Sharon, sister Laura and fiancé Kristian, said: "The passing of Lee has left a massive void in all our lives.

"The overwhelming tributes and messages of support received from all Lee's many friends are a credit to him as a person.

"Lee lived life to the full and has given us so many happy memories as a family. We would like to welcome any of Lee's friends at our home."

Anyone with information about the collision, and the driving of the Volkswagen van beforehand, is asked to contact the Serious Collision Investigation Unit at Gwaelod y Garth on 101 or Crimestoppers 0800 555111.

ABOVE: Lee William Rose with his closest friend, Clare Pothecary

Six-month ceasefire over Rest Bay camper van plan?

THE controversial plan to make provision for camper vans at Rest Bay has been sidelined for six months – after a council committee asked for a major review into the scheme.

The cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) agreed with the call from the community renewal and environmental sub-committee, and a total of five areas to be looked at have been identified.

• Further consultation with the Rest Bay Management Group should be undertaken;

• The legal situation regarding overnight parking should be clarified;

• There should be a "clearer demonstration of the assessed need for any such development, and it should be considered as part of the development of BCBC's tourism strategy".

• Issues relating to the security of the site should be given further consideration;

• The possibility of partnership working between BCBC and the private sector should be fully explored in order to identify and maintain a suitable site.

Council officers have been asked to report back in six months.

Coun Gerald Davies, who represents the Rest Bay ward, said that he was happy with the decision, and he felt that it might be the beginning of the end for the scheme.

He said: "The original concept was ill thought out, and should never have been presented.

"There are far better sites in town, and the council should definitely be looking at doing something in partnership with the private sector."

Police blitz town centre

POLICE in Bridgend held a major drugs operation last Thursday, August 13, when officers targeted the town centre.

During the pre-planned exercise, known as 'Operation Ringo', police officers gathered intelligence. During the day, a 19-year-old female was arrested on suspicion of being in possession of class A drugs.

A 25-year-old male was also arrested in the town centre on suspicion of possessing cannabis.

A 41-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of theft from a nearby supermarket. Officers also moved on a 41-year-old man after he was caught drinking alcohol in the town, which is listed as a 'Designated Public Place' and therefore a 'No-Drinking Zone'. He was subsequently arrested on a warrant after failing to appear at court in Neath.

A 23-year-old man was also arrested for failing to answer bail. Altogether, 53 stop and searches were conducted during the exercise.

Bridgend Acting Neighbourhood Policing Inspector Carl Morgan, who led the operation, said: "We want to reassure the public that these targeted, proactive patrols will continue."

The following day, PCSOs conducted extra high visibility patrols around the town centre, offering information leaflets on drug misuse in order to reassure the public.

If anyone has any information about drug dealing in their community, they should contact their nearest police station on 101, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Porthcawl shock at two arson attacks

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after two vehicles were set on fire in Porthcawl in the early hours of consecutive mornings.

Emergency services were called at 5.50am on Saturday, August 15, to deal with a burning van in a back alley leading to Suffolk Place.

As a result of the fire, properties in the immediate vicinity were evacuated until it was brought under control.

Residents were able to return to their homes around half an hour later.

A Fire Service spokeswoman said that the incident was dealt with by a crew from the Porthcawl station, and she confirmed that the fire was not thought to be accidental.

The following morning (Sunday, August 16), this time at 4am, a silver Peugeot car was also burnt out

Police are treating the two fires as suspicious and have appealed for witnesses to come forward.

They are particularly interested in speaking to two youths who were seen running away on Saturday morning from the area at the time of the fire.

One was wearing a white hooded top and the second was wearing a pale blue hooded top.

The Porthcawl Neighbourhood Police Inspector Alan James said: "We are treating both fires as suspicious and are investigating them fully."

There have been similar incidents in the recent past.

Several weeks ago, a scooter was stolen and set on fire, once again in a back alley, about 200 yards from Saturday's incident.

On this occasion, the property's boundary fence was badly damaged.

Anyone with any information about this incident is asked to contact Inspector Alan James at Porthcawl Police station on 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

SHOCK NEWS FOR THE CRUSADERS

THE CELTIC Crusaders were hit for six this week – as six of their best players were ordered back to Australia.

The loss of the star players – all accused of visa irregularities – will make this Saturday's game against the formidable Leeds Rhinos a major challenge for the younger players who will have to take their place.

(See back page for full details)

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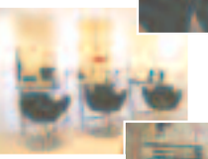
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THE AMERICAN RIGHT FIGHT DIRTY IN 'WAR' OVER NHS

IMAGINE listening to the BBC in the morning – perhaps you're a regular listener of the Today programme on Radio 4.

John Humphrys is broadcasting. He interviews a politician. As you expect, the unfortunate MP is given a hard time.

John Humphrys quizzes him endlessly about some aspect of government policy. The interview is brought to an end after five minutes of lively debate.

At this point, you would see nothing wrong in what's happened.

Imagine, however, that John Humphrys then offers his own view of the Prime Minister, and says that Gordon Brown is setting up "secret internment camps" to imprison those who disagree with him.

At the same time, the Prime Minister is accused of being a communist and the NHS is described as being a "Nazi" project.

No doubt you'd be shocked. After all, the BBC has a reputation for being neutral; for giving us the news as it is.

For a broadcaster to turn a news programme into a vehicle for his own views is unheard of.

Few people expect what they read in Fleet Street's newspapers to actually be accurate, or even true (remember the descriptions of Bridgend during the coverage of the suicides?)

Some newspapers are notorious for making things up and presenting those 'stories' as news. What's broadcast is expected to be true, though, particularly when it comes from the BBC.

Now the real John Humphrys has never offered his views in this way, yet in the US, this is routine. If you watch Fox News, it's quite normal for a newsreader to offer opinions on the news.

American TV is a bit like the British print media in that way. You watch the news from a TV station whose views you agree with, rather than trying to get an unbiased perspective on what's actually going on.

At the moment, these extreme views are all being expressed on TV in the States as President Obama looks to introduce free health coverage for all Americans.

We in the UK accept this as normal, of course, but in the US, lots of people make a lot of money from health and will fight to keep the system as it is – in other words, a system where people pay money to get treated, and where millions of people get no treatment because they can't afford it.

Drugs cost a lot more in America; hospitals cost far more to run, and administrators and doctors are paid huge amounts of money.

Sadly, some British politicians think the NHS is a bad idea and have been on the Fox Network saying so.

We've seen Daniel Hannan, a Conservative MEP, describe the NHS as a "60-year mistake".

Presumably the days when we had TB and rickets in the population were better and if people die in the streets, then tough luck.

Happily, most of us believe in the NHS and the treatment it provides. I hope that the American people will have the foresight to adopt the President's new system.

Fox News will keep on hammering it though, with the help of some in the Conservative party.

Assembly Notes

by ***CARWYN JONES***
AM for Bridgend, Counsel General and Leader of the House.

Rhys is cream of the crop!

AWARD-WINNING Bridgend dairy farmer Rhys Lougher celebrated a notable double at the recent Royal Welsh Show in Builth Wells.

Rhys (pictured above), aged 28, who runs Ty Tanglwyst Dairy in Pyle, entered the milk and cream competitions at the famous show for the first time and came away with the top two prizes in both classes.

He told The GEM: "We are chuffed to bits to take first and second in both the milk and cream competitions, because there are a lot of very good dairies around Wales.

"It's a reward for all the hard work put in by the staff in the dairy and by our herd of cows."

Rhys only started bottling milk on the family farm three years ago.

Since the recent closure of Dairy Farmers of Britain dairy in Bridgend, he has recruited six more part-time staff, taking his dairy workforce to 13.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL AUGUST 27)

The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15– 20 minutes earlier.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
20 Thur	07.38	14.7	19.53	15.1
21 Fri	08.23	15.2	20.34	15.4
22 Sat	09.09	15.3	21.16	15.5
23 Sun	09.51	15.2	21.59	15.3
24 Mon	10.33	14.9	22.39	14.8
25 Tues	11.08	14.3	23.23	14.1
26 Wed	11.54	13.5	23.57	13.2
27 Thur			12.15	12.8

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Our National Health Service is a real wonder to behold!

OVER the past week or so there has been much criticism of our National Health Service.

I, for want of a cliché, am 14 years past my sell by date, but still working, albeit at around 70 per cent efficiency.

Apart from having facial reconstruction to enhance my good looks on the NHS, there is little else I have missed out on.

This coming Saturday, August 22 at 12 noon I will be leading the Garw Valley Carnival, riding my wooden penny farthing bicycle

Being well past the biblical age of three score years and ten, this will probably be the last public occasion that I will take part in any charitable event of this nature.

I am taking part in this event as a tribute to express my grateful thanks to the doctors and nursing staff at the Heath Hospital, Cardiff, for quadruple bypass surgery 14 years ago, Morriston Hospital, Swansea, treatment for a serious spinal injury six years, and the Princess of Wales, Bridgend, who contributed with their nursing and medical skills to keep me out of the Gelliron Cemetery, Pontycymer.

As I take so many tablets, it is possible, on the other hand, that I am being kept alive for economic reasons, the end result being that my departure could have a catastrophic effect on the pharmaceutical industry, with the closure of many tablet-producing companies.

Since October 21, 2004, I have been treated for a condition called GAVE (Gastric Antral Vascular Ectasia). Referred to as 'water melon stomach' since that diagnosis, I have received 26 endoscopy laser treatments, together with the fitting of a Gunther Tulip Vena Mreye filter device to prevent blood clotting.

I could not have considered participating in this forthcoming cycle ride, but for the great care given to me by Dr Tom Yapp and his staff over the last five years at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

There are many of us who are very grateful for the service provided by the NHS, and long may it carry on, thus preventing my children from buying me a one-way ticket via Dignitas (the euthanasia group) to Switzerland.

T Merlin Maddock, MBE

PS: *Below is my drugs regime supported by the NHS.*
8am – 1 puff Symbicort; 2 Puffs Bricanyl; 1 Verapamil hydrochloride 240 mg; 1 Isosorbide mononitrate 20mg; 1 Nicorandal 10mg; 1 Ferusemide 40mg; 1 Ferrous Sulfate 200mg; 1 Omeprazole 20mg; 1 CO-Beneldopa(Madopar) 62 5Mg; 1 Requip XL 6Mg.
12 noon – 1 Puff Bricanyl 0.5mg; 1 Ferrous Sulfate 200mg; 1 Ferusemide 49mg; 1 CO-Beneldopa (Madopar) 62 5MG.
4pm – 1 Puff Bricanyl 0.5mg; 1 Ferrous Sulfate 200mg; 1 Ferusemide 40mg; 1 CO-Beneldopa (Madopar) 62 5MG.
9pm – 1 Puff Symbicort; 2 Puffs Bricanyl; 1 Verapamil Hydrochroride 240.mg; 1 Nicoranil 10mg; 1 Pravastatin sodium 40mg.; Quinine Sulphate 200mg.
(Use Glyceryl Trinitrate Aerosol Spray under tongue when required as directed.)

LOCAL INFORMATION

MADELEINE MOON MP for Bridgend Westminster office - 02072194417 Constituency office - 47, Nolton Street, Bridgend. Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10am - 12pm. Telephone 01656 750002
HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES MP for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 737777
JANICE GREGORY AM for Ogmore Constituency Office 01656 860034
CARWYN JONES AM for Bridgend Constituency office 01656 664320
Bethan Jenkins AM for South West Wales Telephone 01639 643549
BRIDGEND CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau, Ground Floor, 26 Dunraven Place, Bridgend CF31 1JD 01656 654951 – Open to personal callers: Tuesday-Friday 10am-12.30pm or telephone service: Monday-Friday 10am-12.30pm.
MAESTEG CAB Citizens' Advice Bureau **01656 734662**
POLICE Bridgend 01656 655555
Porthcawl 01656 785411
Maesteg 01656 732122
CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
GAS (escapes and emergency) **0800 111999**
ELECTRICITY (power cuts) **0800 0520400**
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FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families in need **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
MENTAL DISTRESS (Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
CHILDLINE 0800 1111
NSPCC 0800 800500
RSPCA 0300 123 0744
WOMEN'S AID 01656 766139
Bridgend Carers' Centre 01656 658479
Alzheimer's Society (Bridgend) 01656 651490
BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL (selected numbers)
Housing service
(General inquiries) **01656 643643;**
(emergencies out of hours) **01656 663247;**
(homelessness) **01656 643542.**
EDUCATION 01656 642643
LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES 01656 642677
HIGHWAYS (drains, blockages etc) **01656 643421**
HIGHWAYS EMERGENCIES (outside normal working hours) **07831 143600**
SOCIAL SERVICES (general enquiries) **01656 642200**
SOCIAL SERVICE EMERGENCIES (outside normal working hours) **01443 204010**
HOSPITALS Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend **01656 752752**
Bridgend and District NHS Trust **01656 752752**
VOLUNTARY WORK Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) **01656 810400**
TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS
Brackla Community Council **01656 767072**
Bridgend Town Council **01656 659943**
Cefn Cribwr Community Council **01656 741354**
Coity Higher Community Council **01656 656358**
Cornelly Community Council **07882 044798**
Pyle Community Council **01656 670251**
Coychurch Higher Community Council **01656 863418**
Coychurch Lower Community Council **01656 647216**
Garw Valley Community Council **01656 736751**
Laleston Community Council **01656 656506**
Llangynwyd Lower Council **01656 728662**
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LATEST NEWS FROM THE 2347 AIR TRAINING CORPS

Pub quiz helps cadets

***RIGHT:* Kelvin Isaacs presents the cheque to Robert Snell, with Susan Daniel, and Gerry and Pam Nash looking on.**

THE Cadets at 2347 Air Training Corps, Porthcawl, were recently presented with a cheque from the Jolly Sailor Quiz Fund.

Kelvin Isaacs (the quizmaster) handed over a cheque for £200 to Robert Snell (chairperson) and Susan Daniel (secretary).

The donation was awarded to the ATC to buy camping equipment for cadets to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Medal.

Gerry and Pam Nash, who run the Jolly Sailor at Newton Green, Porthcawl, hold a quiz every Sunday night at 9pm. Funds are regularly donated to local organisations.

The Cadets meet every Monday and Friday night at the 40-Acre Site, Porthcawl, from 7pm-9pm. Over-13s are welcome.

Contact Susan Daniel on 01656 788643 or e-mail susan.daniel@tiscali.co.uk for more details.

Proposals for Brackla land are on display

AN exhibition over proposals to develop empty land at Brackla Industrial Estate, and a site adjoining it, is being held in the foyer of Bridgend County Borough Council offices in Angel Street until August 21.

The event is being organised by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) which is the major owner of the land involved.

WAG is considering a number of uses for this land including employment, housing and a 'sustainable energy centre' as part of plans to regenerate and upgrade the existing industrial estate.

The land in question runs alongside the northern distributor road opposite the hospital. Some of the land also skirts Princess Way. Other land at the opposite end of the estate near Coity is also included in the area under consideration.

Detailed planning applications would have to be submitted for any proposals, although the site has been allocated for development in principle.

The masterplan will be on display in Bridgend, and questionnaires will be available for people to provide their views.

Information can also be downloaded from www.bracklabusinesspark.co.uk

Heart patient is searching for Bridgend's Robert

A SWANSEA man has contacted The GEM, trying to get in touch with a fellow patient – after they had heart operations a few days apart.

Mr Leslie Saunders was in Morriston Hospital and had his operation on August 4 last year (2008). Three days later, a man from Bridgend had his operation and, although they exchanged addresses, Mr Saunders found that, after leaving hospital, he had lost the address.

Mr Saunders said: "There were a number of us in the ward awaiting operations, and quite a number of us have kept in touch since.

"The man whose details I have mislaid was Robert Shoteshet, although I am not sure of the spelling. I know that after his operation, he was in intensive care, and I would like to find out how he is.

"He was very good company and a thoroughly nice man."

The GEM has Mr Saunders' contact details and will be happy to pass them on to anyone who can offer some information. Telephone 01446 774484 and ask for Philip Irwin or Tim Chapman.

Housing slump has silver lining for social projects

THE state of the current housing market could result in 'windfall' social housing projects in Bridgend.

The cabinet heard that houses being built by private builders at Caerau Gleision, Broadlands, and Maesteg Road, Tondu, are already the subject of agreements for them to be rented out.

The scheme at Broadlands will provide 31 homes to be managed by Hafod Housing.

The properties will cost more than £2m and work is due to start in October, with completion in the autumn of next year.

At Maesteg Road, 40 homes will be provided, to be run by Linc Housing Association. These will not be available until 2012.

In addition, extra opportunities to provide social housing have come about at Coed Castell in Brackla, and at two sites in North Cornelly – Marlas Farm and Morgan Court.

The Marlas Farm scheme can proceed quickly and will be run by Valleys to Coast (V2C).

Homelessness is being tackled with the plans to develop 17 units at the YMCA in Bridgend, plus a further 12 units of supported accommodation as a move-on facility.

The use of the old Nantlais sheltered housing scheme in Cefn Glas, which is now empty, is being considered. It could be converted into 15 units for the homeless.

This complex is owned by V2C.

Five houses are also to be built at Lewistown, to be sold at below-market prices to enable people unable to buy on the open market to get somewhere to live.

Local war veteran Bryn celebrates his 90th birthday!

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

A PORTHCAWL war veteran recently celebrated his 90th birthday, and he was presented with a bouquet of flowers from Porthcawl Town Council by Couns Gaynor and David Newton-Williams, who were standing in for the Mayor of Porthcawl.

Mr Bryn Jones was captured as the German Army advanced on Dunkirk in 1940, and he spent World War Two as a prisoner deep in German territory.

On his return in 1945, he was given a hero's welcome in Pencoed.

As with many men of his age, the war interrupted a promising sporting career, and he resumed playing rugby for Bridgend for several years, before 'going north' to play for Whitehaven Rugby League Club.

It was there that he met his wife, Jean, who was a nurse.

***ABOVE:* Bryn Jones (with wife Jean on left) is presented with the bouquet by Coun David Newton-Williams and Coun Gaynor Newton-Williams.**

***BELOW:* Bryn, fifth from the left in the back row of the photograph, played wing forward for a combined Aberavon and Neath team against the visiting Australian Wallabies in 1948.**

RE-LAUNCH FOR CARERS' GROUP

AN organisation that provides support to carers has been relaunched.

Crossroads Care, which operates across Bridgend county borough, provides short respite care breaks for carers. It also runs a highly successful café at Trinity Church in Porthcawl each Wednesday.

Jane Questle, who is the scheme manager, said that the café runs from 12.30pm-3.30pm, and light refreshments and drinks are served.

She said: "This café is open to everyone, not just carers, because it is important to engage members of the public with the work that we do.

"None of us know if, in the future, we may ourselves become either carers or people in need of care, so it's useful to get people to try and understand the issues. Help and information is available at the café."

She said that some carers also bring their cared-for ones with them as it was a chance for them to get out and meet different people.

Jane added: "It has been such a success that we are opening a second one in Ogmore Vale at the Ogmore Valley Welfare Hall. That will be on Tuesdays, from 12.30pm-3.30pm, but we have not finalised the launch date yet."

Crossroads Care is based at Victoria Avenue in Porthcawl but works across the borough. It employs trained staff to go into people's homes to provide the care needed while the usual carer has a break.

"We only use paid staff for this work," she said. "Our volunteers work in the café, but only trained employed people go out to people's homes."

The charity's re-launch is being backed by Esther Rantzen, who said that there are six million carers in the country – many of them school age children.

The charity has worked in Bridgend for 16 years and employs 32 staff who support 250 carers.

Jane explained: "Our relaunch will give us the platform to be clear about what we offer and how we are different, to enable carers to make informed choices.

"We want them to know that Crossroads Care is an organisation they can turn to with confidence."

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ALL SMILES (well, almost!) AT MAWDLAM WEDDING

A COMBINED wedding and Christening was held at St Mary Magdalene's Church, Mawdlam, Kenfig, recently.

The wedding was between Rachel Margaret Harris of Pool Farm, Kenfig, and John Ivor Young.

Following the wedding, the couple's two youngest children (Megan and baby Ben) were Christened.

The service was conducted by the Rev Ian Rees, Vicar of Pyle with Kenfig.

The reception was held in the Prince of Wales, Kenfig.

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

Not everyone enjoyed being in the limelight...

Rest Bay surfers warned as sneak thieves strike

POLICE in Porthcawl are urging surfers at Rest Bay to watch out for thieves who are stealing cars while the owner is on the beach.

The Porthcawl Neighbourhood Policing Team is running two operations to crack down on vehicle theft in the Rest Bay area.

Sgt Mike Davies said: "Rest Bay is a popular spot for the surfing community, and we want it to remain a safe area for residents and visitors to enjoy.

"Recently, we have dealt with incidents where surfers have had their cars stolen after hiding their keys near the vehicle. Doing this may prevent their keys getting wet as they surf, but it also gives watching thieves an opportunity to steal their car once they are in the water."

As part of 'Operation St Lucia' and 'Operation Rest Bay', decoy cars are being used by officers to catch thieves red-handed. Officers are also carrying out extra high-visibility patrols of the car park to offer crime prevention advice to surfers and other residents. CCTV continues to carefully monitor the area.

Sgt Davies added: "Most wet suits have a key pocket, so we're urging surfers to make use of them or buy a small waterproof bag to tie around their waist and stash their keys in. Park as close to CCTV cameras as possible.

'Also be aware that people may be watching. If you see anything suspicious, please report it."

NEWS FROM PORTHCAWL TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Raising cash for mayor's civic fund

AUGUST 12 saw us at the Salthouse on the Square to raise money for the mayor's civic fund.

Both members and public attended, and we held a raffle and had a craft stall, with all items on sale made by our members.

The mayor and her consort where in attendance and opened the coffee morning.

As we don't meet in August, we look forward to our next meeting in September, when the meeting will be our Harvest tea.

Preparations are under way for the Christmas entertainment and the October 14 meeting will be a talk on flowers by Mrs Tina Gutteridge.

On November 11, the talk is 'Baltic Highlights' by Mr David Anderson.

All are welcome to All Saints Church Hall, at 2pm on the second Wednesday of each month.

DEE RICHARDSON

Hollie is the top scorer!

ABOVE: Hollie and Joshua with their Bridge Kids cards.

BRIDGEND County Borough Council's sport and physical activity department were at the recent Bridgend Police show, offering a range of children's activities and gym challenges for the adults.

The children were given the opportunity to take part in a junior challenge, which included a bean bag target game, hoopla and basketball hoops, with a prize of two 'One Month Bridge Kids Cards' (which will allow them unlimited access to the eight leisure centres and swimming pools in the borough) for the best score.

The winner at the end of the weekend was Hollie Louise Brimble from Bryncethin (aged 11) who scored a fantastic 350 points out of 500. Hollie gave the second Bridge Kids Card to her 10-year-old brother Joshua .

For further information on the Bridge Kids Card contact 01656 657491 or email leisure-marketing@bridgend.gov.uk

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Sarn Life Long Learning

LAST weekend, I went along to the art exhibition presented by the Tondu and District Art Society in the hall at the centre.

I was amazed at the way they had laid out their paintings, and it was really well done.

The variety of subjects and the quality of paintings by the members of this society equals any other displayed art exhibition I have visited, and I hope the exhibition is a success.

The management committee (all volunteers) of the Sarn and Bryncethin Community Association are working hard to improve the facilities available at the centre.

Members of the community are most welcome to join the association, so that they can bring in fresh ideas.

Mining disaster

ONE of the largest mining disasters in the South Wales coalfields was at the Parc Slip coal drift mine, Aberkenfig near Tondu.

This mine began production in 1864, and at the time of the disaster it was owned by North's Navigation Company.

In the early 1890s, a workforce of men and boys numbering less than 200 were producing 300 tons of coal a day from two faces.

On August 26, 1892, at 8.20am there was a massive explosion which sent clouds of smoke and flame from the entrance to the mine.

There were two survivors in a pumping station 60 metres inside the mine. They had heard the explosion and threw themselves on the ground and the flames passed over them.

At first it was believed that they were the only survivors. Because of the discovery of afterdamp, the rescuers had to restore ventilation, and it was believed the remainder of the workforce had perished.

At 6am, when fresh air was circulating, the rescuers began a search for survivors. They were about to give up when four appeared out of the darkness. They directed the rescuers further into the mine where others were found alive.

By 4pm, they had brought a total of 42 miners out alive. The final death toll was 112 men and boys.

In this disaster, there were a number of boys, who nowadays would still be at school – one 13-year-old, two 14-year-olds and six at 15 years old.

It was two months after the explosion that the last body was recovered. Thirty-nine miners survived the disaster, 14 of them being lead out by 62-year-old William Richards.

On the site of the mine there is now a monument consisting of 112 stones to represent each of the miners.

Maesteg Gleemen

THIS choir is one of the most famous and longest-established choirs in the Bridgend county borough area, having been formed in 1958.

The choir has a long serving musical team. Their musical director, Alun Hodges, joined in 1990, and their talented accompanist Suzanne Hodges (née Best) joined in October 1996.

Together with this accomplished pair, the choir has Anthony Bwye as deputy musical director, who is also a first class soloist and concert compère, having joined the choir more than 25 years ago. Alun and Suzanne Hodges were married on Easter Saturday, 2006.

The choir has twice won the National Eisteddfod, the first in Porthmadoc in 1987 and again in 1996 in Llandeilo. They have also won the Eisteddfodau Teulu James Pantyfedwen, Pontrhydfendigaid twice in 1987 and 2008.

They also took first place in the South Wales Miners' eisteddfod at Porthcawl in 1995. The choir has been honoured to have been invited to appear twice at the Llangollen International musical festival.

In 2003, the choir hosted the inaugural 'Bridgend County young singer of the year' competition in conjunction with Bridgend CBC. Since then, the contest has been sponsored by Dunraven Windows Ltd, along with financial assistance from a number of community councils within the borough.

The competition fosters young talent and provides a showcase for these young artists to display their musical talents. In fact, last year's winner of the junior section, Rhydian Jenkins, a pupil at Ysgol Gymraeg Llangynwyd, has won at the National Eisteddfod this year.

The choir rehearses at the British Legion Club, Commercial Street, Maesteg, on Monday and Thursday evenings between 7pm-9pm, and welcome visitors and prospective new members to attend at any rehearsal.

More information can be obtained by phoning John on 01656 735007.

Wildmill carnival

THE carnival on Monday, August 31 is due to start at 11.45am, with a procession showing off the carnival queen proceeding along Middle Road, Maes-Y-Felin, around Saints to the river road, then back to the main road, finishing at the community centre.

The Mayor will then open the fete, which will have displays by karate experts, gymnastics, singing and dancing sessions. There will also be a car boot sale, together with a number of stalls selling bric a brac, cakes and refreshments.

For the younger children, there will be a bouncy castle.

For more information telephone Peter on 07989 062243.

Parc Slip Nature reserve

THE Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales is running a series of fun nature events, every Tuesday throughout the summer holidays.

On August 25, they will be teaching wild craft, which will show the children how they can tell which animal or bird has been in a certain area.

The session is from 10am-12pm and costs £1.50 per child. the children should wear suitable clothing and footwear, and if aged under eight must be supervised by a responsible adult. Fore more information, telephone 01656 724100.

EMAIL US!

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NEW CORNELLY YOUTH CENTRE IS OPEN

ABOVE:
A rousing welcome to the Youth Integration Centre for Coun Jeff Tildesley and Anthony Tal Williams from some young footballers.

REPORT and PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

A NEW centre for young people has been opened in Cornelly.

Coun Jeff Tildesley, Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, was invited by Bridgend/Neath Port Talbot Groundworks to officially open the Youth Integration Centre at Gibbons Way, Marlas, North Cornelly.

This centre stands alongside the MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) which V2C (Valleys to Coast housing association) invited the mayor to open last year.

V2C, under area manager Clive Thomas, donated the site at Gibbons Way for both projects. Groundwork then applied for European funding, under REAP allocation, supported by Ken Harris of Bridgend County Borough Council's economic development unit.

Cornelly Community Council donated £10,000 towards the project, and that was matched with a like sum from the Kenfig Corporation Trust.

The total project value, excluding the land, is of the order of £300,000. It is supported by the South Wales Police, who say that the facility is widely used, and has already made a huge impact on anti-social behaviour in the area.

Full-time youth leaders working at the facility include Youthworks which is an arm of Bridgend/Neath Port Talbot Groundworks and led by Lindsey Tyson and Mark Holmes under Youthworks programme manager Reg Denley.

The High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, Anthony Tal Williams, was on hand to present the trophy to the winning team after a youth football competition that had been organized for the opening event.

Other guests included the Deputy Lord Lieutenant Derek Morgan and his wife Anne (last year's High Sheriff of Mid-Glamorgan), Cornelly Mayor Brian Davies, newly-promoted Superintendent Paul Murphy, together with colleagues from South Wales Police, Inspector Alan James and Sergeant Mike Davies, and representatives of V2C, and Youthwork.

ABOVE:
The teams who took part in the five-a-side competition.

Coun Jeff Tildesley giving his official opening speech and vote of thanks. He was followed by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, Derek Morgan, who gave the summing-up speech.

BELOW: The visitors meet some of the workers behind the scenes in the centre.

BELOW:
The Winning Team, Marlas Allstars, being presented with the Cup by Anthony Tal Williams. The runners up were Marlas Young Stars.

MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL NEWS IN BRIEF

THE value of the Dr WH Thomas memorial in Talbot Street, Maesteg, has been estimated at £50,000 for insurance purposes.

Maesteg Town Council has taken over ownership of the memorial, which was erected originally as a drinking fountain in gratitude to Dr William Hopkin Thomas for his work in the valley.

Town crier's bell

THE bell used by the old Maesteg town crier is to be presented to the town council by Mr John Summers, who obtained it from the welfare park where he said it was in a sorry state.

He has renovated the bell which is used in the park to warn people that the gates were being locked. It has been replaced with another bell.

Mr Summers asked if the bell could go on permanent display in the council offices with a plaque, and this has been agreed. It will be handed over at a ceremony in the chamber.

The hanging baskets in Maesteg Town centre have cost the town council £2,250 to provide, and a further £2,040 to water and maintain.

Christmas lights

MAESTEG Town Council has halved the donation it makes to the Christmas lights in Caerau, after members felt that Caerau was getting more than its fair share of resources.

The council had received a request from Caerau Communities First for a donation towards the cost of providing the lights, which is £1,318 and is done by the community.

However, Coun Keith Edwards said that Caerau was always getting money from the council, but areas like Garth did not get a penny.

He said: "Year after year, they come with scheme after scheme."

Coun Terry Mizen disagreed, saying that the council should continue to support Caerau, and proposed £500, which was the sum donated last year, but this was not seconded.

Coun Phil Jenkins then proposed £250, because of the large number of organisations now seeking help in Caerau. This was agreed. The council also voted to give £100 to Caerau Carnival Committee.

A grant of £250 has been made by the town council to the Llynfi Valley 11-25 project towards the cost of providing a session dance worker to work with youngsters over a six months period, as part of efforts to reduce anti-social behaviour.

NEWS FROM THE LIONS CLUB OF BRIDGEND

Local clubs bring home medals from Lions'district games

ABOVE: Members of Bridgend Lions with some of the clubs' helpers and staff.

THE Lions Club of Bridgend sponsored teams from Penybont Gateway Club and Every Link Counts to take part in the annual District Games for the Disabled that were held in Swindon on Sunday, August 9.

Altogether, 15 competitors won medals, with a total of 16 gold, silver and bronze for Gateway, and a total of 21 for Every Link Counts. This included an amazing 12 gold medals.

A total of 165 competitors took part in the event from 16 organisations, and it was supported by Lions Clubs from south Wales and the west of England.

A Lions club spokesman said: "The busy day included a full programme of track and field events and an all-day bowls competition.

"The event was very professionally organised and all the events were officiated by qualified Amateur Athletics Association officials."

Further information about the Lions Club of Bridgend can be obtained from their website at www.bridgendlions.org.uk

KENFIG HILL MAN HAS NOW FULFILLED HIS DREAM OF BECOMING FIGHTER PILOT

TWO years ago, Steven Barrett graduated from the Royal Air Force College Cranwell as a Flying Officer.

His dream, since young, was to fly fast-jets and, at the age of 13, he joined 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron ATC.

The next few years saw Steven progress through training to Staff Cadet and attain the rank of Instructor Cadet Warrant Officer.

He qualified as a glider pilot instructor with No 634 Volunteer Gliding Squadron MoD St Athan, and gained a pilot qualification at the Tayside Flying School in Scotland. Steven became the Lord Lieutenants Cadet for 2003-2004.

After graduating from RAF College Cranwell, he was posted to RAF Wyton and then to RAF Linton on Ouse for future fast-jet pilots.

After completing his training with the Tucano T1, Steven was presented with his RAF Wings and promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

He is now awaiting transfer to RAF Valley to continue the next stage of his fast-jet training with the Hawk TMk1.

Flt Lt Barry C Thomas, OC 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron ATC said: "Steven is the ideal role model for our cadets and, when he has time, calls in to the squadron and is always eager to talk to the cadets about his time with the ATC and his experience with the Royal Air Force.

RIGHT: Flight Lieutenant Steven Barrett.

"All of us at 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron ATC wish Flight Lieutenant Steven Barrett the very best in his career as a pilot with the RAF."

Bank holiday Lions book fair

PORTHCAWL Lions are holding a book fair at The Seabank Hotel from August 29-31, at 10am-4pm each day, and entrance is free.

A club spokesman said: "Book sales have grown from having a book tent at the May Fair each year, to selling books in John Street on fine Saturdays.

"These events have received such good support from the public that it has been decided to hold a large book fair, where more than 5,000 books will be on sale.

"Prices start from as low as 20p, and there are reference and non-fiction books, as well as a tremendous range of fiction, with all ages catered for.

"All proceeds will go to (mostly local) charities, as do the proceeds from all Lions' book sales.

Council to probe rights of way issues

PROBLEMS with rights of way in the Cwmdu area are being referred by Maesteg Town Council to Bridgend County Borough Council for urgent investigation.

The town council was told that Footpath 31 had been completely blocked for several years, as the landowner disputed its existence.

It is inaccessible and, as a result, access to three other paths – paths 32, 33 and 30 – is denied.

There are also problems with footpath 36, where walkers say they are obstructed with gates locked, sections of the right of way ploughed, and mud and manure on the path.

A public inquiry found that this path must be opened for public use and the council's rights of way committee is to hold an urgent meeting with local walkers to investigate the position.

NO ASSEMBLY CAP ON UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

Hardworking students must be congratulated as results roll in!

GUEST COLUMN

by Jane Hutt AM
(Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills)

AUGUST is the month where the tensions and anxieties rise as our young people await their A/AS and GCSE results.

The relief to have finished the exams last term and the holidays enjoyed, give way to the wait for the results and I know that, once again, we will be able to congratulate our young people and their teachers on their achievements.

As your Education Minister in the Welsh Assembly Government, this is a time when I am here to support our young people, their families and their schools as they receive the results and plan their futures.

Joining the students at Coleg Glan Hafren on results day, provides me with the opportunity to publicly congratulate young people and adult learners across the whole of Wales, but I will also take the opportunity to contact Vale schools to give them my congratulations, as their Assembly Member.

I have written to every secondary school headteacher in Wales this week to forward copies of our latest up-to-date guide for young people considering the choices they can make for their next steps in education and training, taking into account the impact of the credit crunch.

In considering the choices that are available, I have outlined examples of courses at school, college and university as well as the apprenticeship route.

There has been a 11 per cent increase in applications to university from young people in Wales, but we have not put a cap on numbers and the range of higher education courses is vast.

We also reminded our students that if they stay in school or college, they may qualify for the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) of up to £30 per week.

For more information on EMA, call 0845 602 8845 or visit www.studentfinancewales.co.uk.

These contact details will also provide information on student finance for university students. If you normally live in Wales, you will be entitled to Student Finance Wales, regardless of where you choose to study in the UK.

If you are under-19, your parent or guardian can continue to claim Child Benefit (or other benefits paid by the Government) if you are on a full-time course at school or college, or an approved training course and are receiving a learning allowance.

We have also produced a guide for parents and guardians 'Your Family Friend' on the support we can provide for their children and families.

This also includes information on free school meals, free breakfasts, schools uniform grant, free pre school nursery places, working tax credit to help with childcare costs and your local family information service fis@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk on 01446 704704.

The Careers Wales services are geared up to support and advise you. You can visit careerswales.com/yourfuture for information on your options, job and training vacancies, career ideas, courses and information on more than 600 careers and how to get started in them.

Also you can contact your local careers offices in the Vale. You can also call the Learning and Careers Advice Line on 0800 100 900 for more information.

Although we continue to face difficult economic times, the latest labour force survey for Wales and the UK, published by the Office for National Statistics last Wednesday, shows that once again Wales has bucked the trend.

While the number of unemployed in Wales fell again, the figures show that total UK unemployment rose again.

This month's statistics showed that unemployment fell by 2,000 in Wales over the quarter, and the First Minister, Rhodri Morgan, said it is still the case that the recession still has some way to go: "But today's figures show that Wales' relative performance has continued to improve – and that's extremely encouraging in the light of the intense efforts that the Assembly Government has made to counter the global recession."

This will be encouraging for our young people as we seek to encourage them to stay in education, training and work as we reach the end of these summer school and college holidays.

The Vale does have unemployment hotspots which we have a duty to tackle.

At the end of July, we announced the first round of the Future Jobs Fund creating more than 2,000 jobs, mainly for young people, promoted by local government and the voluntary sector. I hope the Vale of Glamorgan Council will take advantage of this multi million Government programme.

We have a duty and responsibility to intervene and stimulate every opportunity to keep our young people in training, education or work, and to support employers in taking on apprentices with extra investment from my department in the Welsh Assembly Government.

Over this week and next, I will be robust in answering all the usual questions about standards and I will be resolute in my praise for the young people in their achievements from all our schools in Wales, in all the subjects studied.

In particular, I will be proud to welcome the latest Welsh Baccalaureate results which underpin the broader cohort of skills that our young people need through the vocational and academic routes they may pursue, winning plaudits from the Nuffield Trust for our educational advancements for our young people.

To every young person I will be saying: "Whatever path you take, learning is the key, so make learning work for you!"

Go-ahead for Maesteg art gallery at offices

A GALLERY of paintings by the Maesteg-born artist Christopher Williams is to be created in the Maesteg Town Council offices.

Bridgend County borough Council's cabinet has agreed to place six of the artists' works which are currently in storage at the borough council into the newly refurbished offices in Maesteg.

They will be put on long term loan with Maesteg Town Council, which will arrange to display them in the council chamber and other areas of the town council offices.

In all, the borough council owns 18 of his paintings – some of which it inherited from the former Maesteg UDC. The artist made a gift of some of his works to the council before his death in 1934.

These have hung in Maesteg Town Hall ever since. The others were purchased by Ogwr Borough Council in the 1980s as there were plans at that time to create a gallery of his works in the town.

However, the plan never materialised and in the end, some of the paintings were placed on display in the civic offices in Bridgend, where they remain.

The cabinet has now agreed to also see if some of these paintings can be placed in buildings in Maesteg instead, so that the collection is housed within the town.

Christopher Williams, who was born in 1873, was a member of the Royal Academy and was commissioned to paint some important works, including a portrait of the prime minister David Lloyd George.

He was born in Commercial Street where his parents kept a tea shop known as Y Tebot.

His ashes were scattered on Y Foel near Llangynwyd.

We welcome your news, views and sports items.
Please email them to the Editorial Department at:
ggem@internet-today.co.uk

SOUTH WALES CHIEF CONSTABLE VISITS PORTHCAWL POLICE STATION

REPORT and PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

The Chief Constable of South Wales Police, Barbara Wilding, recently visited Porthcawl Police Station to highlight the work being done in the area by her PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers).

In addition to the representatives of the South Wales Police Force that were to be present for the visit, the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Rosemary Deere, her Consort, Coun David Deere, and the President of the Porthcawl and District Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Lindsey Morgan, were invited to attend.

Barbara Wilding said that she wanted to demonstrate publicly her support for the efforts of her officers in carrying out their duties. She wanted it to be appreciated that, not only are these officers providing a reassuring 'Bobby on the Beat' presence, but that they are each running and managing in a very professional and competent manner, a number of very worthwhile community projects.

LEFT:
PCSO Holly Prosser in the cells at Porthcawl Police Station.

ABOVE:
The visiting party at the front desk of Porthcawl Police Station with Jackalyn Jones. Jackalyn is in her 40th year with the South Wales Police Force. She served for three years at Police Headquarters, Bridgend, followed by two years in the old Porthcawl Police Station in John Street, and 37 years in the present station, which opened on 10th June 1974.

ABOVE:
The Chief Constable with her PCSO team (left to right): PCSO Leighton Rees, PCSO Sharyn Philemon, PCSO Holly Prosser, Chief Constable Barbara Wilding, Inspector Alan James, and PCSO Carl Westgate.

Marla (14) realises a dream – to dance at Sadler's Wells

by TIM CHAPMAN

A TEENAGE dancer has won an audition to join the company of the National Youth Ballet of Great Britain and will perform at the world famous Sadler's Wells.

Marla Ellis, aged 14, was one of 115 young dancers selected at a final audition casting in London out of more than 700 hopefuls.

In the last year Marla has attended the Arts Educational School in Tring after her parents Helen and Mark, along with the people of Cowbridge, managed to raise £25,000 in tuition fees.

Fundraising included a special night at the Duke of Wellington and Marla's mother Helen selling her vintage VW camper van!

That faith in Marla, who lives in the Vale, seems to have been justified.

She will perform at Sadler's Wells on September 6, but before that will appear at The Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells from August 27 - 29.

Helen told The GEM: "Marla has gone to a special training school for 10 days to prepare herself for what is ahead.

"Going to Tring has been a great experience for her – it has helped her dancing skills, her organisational ability and her independence.

"Mark and I are going to watch her perform at the theatre in Tunbridge Wells."

Among the pieces the company will perform are Cinderella, Colour Crazy, Ship Ahoy, Fuego Del Alma, Soldiers Three, and Jiggery Pokery.

Due to a lack of further funds Marla is unable to continue at Tring, and will attend Cowbridge Comprehensive School from September.

To have continued at Tring for another two years would have cost the family another £50,000.

Helen said: "There are more opportunities for funding when Marla is 16, and she is keen to continue developing her ballet in the meantime by going to workshops and summer schools."

ABOVE:
Marla Ellis will dance at the world famous Sadler's Wells in three weeks time.

MAESTEG TOWN COUNCIL NEWS IN BRIEF

MAESTEG Art Society has received £100 from Maesteg Town Council towards the cost of staging its annual exhibition.

Another £200 was donated to the Bridge Mentoring Plus Scheme, which is providing support to 38 young people from Maesteg.

MAESTEG Town Council has backed proposals from J and S Developments of Ewenny Road, Maesteg, to demolish Hope Chapel in Caerau, and replace it with four two-bedroomed houses.

THE old Port Talbot railway line could be reopened as a cycletrack, Maesteg town council has heard.

The line originally ran from the Garw, past Lletty Brongu, through Garth and then crossed over to the station at Neath Road, before travelling through to Bryn via a tunnel.

The council heard that improvements would be needed to the viaduct at Llangynwyd which carried the line, and which is owned by Network Rail.

MP unhappy with transport plan

VALE MP, John Smith has claimed the recently-published Welsh Assembly's National Transport Plan does not deal with traffic chaos in the area.

Mr Smith said: "The new plan will not solve the major road problems facing the Vale. There is no direct link to the M4 or improved links to Cardiff. The plan only repeats minor schemes already announced.

"A new, frequent bus service to Cardiff Airport and safety improvements on the A4226 Five Mile Lane is not a substitute for a direct link from the M4 to Barry, the airport and the St Athan Defence Technical College. The Wales Spatial Plan, also published by the Welsh Assembly, stated that Barry was a key settlement and St Athan a Strategic Opportunity Area.

"Without new transport links, including improved roads, it would appear that the Vale has been again overlooked."

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Council recognises the importance of volunteering

THE Vale Council recently hosted its fifth annual awards event to recognise the important work that volunteers do for the community.

Volunteers were nominated for the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) year of the volunteer awards under subjects such as initiative, dedication or personal qualities, and as the standard of achievement was so high, it was decided that all should be presented with certificates of high commendation.

Included in the event was the presentation of a cheque to the Vale Council's Mayor, Coun Emlyn Williams, for £24,080,411, signifying in monetary terms how much volunteering is worth to the Vale.

The director of the Vale Volunteer Bureau, Alison Steere, said: "Volunteers provide so much to local communities and many services would not exist without their support."

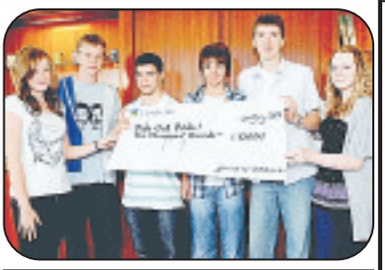
The second year of the Vale Volunteer Bureau's 'Dish out Dosh' project, which sees a panel of young volunteers distributing funding to youth-led volunteering projects in the Vale, also recently began and a new panel of grant distributors has been recruited to decide just how much 'dosh' to dish out!

The youth-led grants scheme, inspired by television's Dragon's Den, is funded by the Vale Council's 14-19 network and Welsh Youth Volunteering initiative, Gwirvol, in order to help young people put their ideas into action.

Last year's project gave grants that enabled six youth volunteering projects to take place and enabled 110 young people to engage in volunteering.

For more information, contact the Vale Volunteer Bureau on 01446 421782 or visit www.vvb.org.uk.

Above: Volunteers nominated for the WCVA Year of the Volunteer Award, with the Mayor, Coun Emlyn Williams.



ABOVE: Members of the VVB's new grants panel for 'Dish Out Dosh'.

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Ty Hafan man on the spot

TY HAFAN community fundraiser Robert Taylor (above), who has been with the charity for more than five years, has been appointed to look after the Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend, Porthcawl, Neath & Port Talbot and Swansea area.

Married with two grown up daughters, he previously worked with Tenovus for 13 years.

He can be contacted on 07989 564326 or robert@tyhafan.org.

Mythical stamp winners

THE winners of our recent stamp competition were:

Ken Wright, Barry; Doris Allen, Ystradowen; Mr Williams, Llanblethian; Mr Wilson, Llantwit Major; Mr Roger Bradshaw, Cowbridge; Mr C Thomas, Pencoed; V Taylor, Cefn Cribwr; Mr Powell, Pencoed; Anne Baxter, St Athan; Ifon Jones, Bridgend; David Lewis, St Brides Major; Shirley Huxter, Barry; John W Floyd, Llantwit Major; CM McCarthy, Rhoose; Mrs Robinson, Dinas Powys; Bridget Gough, Porthcawl; Mrs Hiscock, Cowbridge; Mrs Lewis, Llantwit Major; Rosie Woolven, Rhoose; Pam Price, Barry.

Congratulations to you all.

Family is behind marathon cycle ride for Bridgend unit

A LOCAL woman is urging people to get behind her husband, who is cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise funds for a Bridgend palliative care unit.

PAUL HARRIS.

Samantha Harris (nee Hoad) grew up in Cowbridge and Treoes and went to Cowbridge Comprehensive School along with her brother Christian Hoad, who still lives in Bridgend.

She is living now in West Sussex with her young family, and her husband Paul, who turned 40 earlier this year and decided to set himself a challenge!

Samantha said: "On September 1 he is cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats in 12 days. This involves covering 1,000 miles over 12 days, averaging 80 – 90 miles per day.

"This is a chance to raise money for two charities that have touched his life in the last couple of years. Paul has already raised nearly £9,000 from family, friends and colleagues, which includes a £5,000 donation from his company – and is well on the way to reaching his target of £10,000 for his chosen charities."

One of the charities is Y Bwthyn Newydd, the palliative care unit at the Princess of Wales hospital in Bridgend.

Samantha explained: "The unit offered my late mother, Pauline Davies, fantastic support after she was diagnosed with lung cancer.

"She spent several years receiving care from the dedicated and caring staff and, as a small self-funded unit, it will be a great way to say thank you for the help and support they offered her, and our family, in difficult times."

Paul's other charity is the Exeter Leukaemia Fund (ELF), which has been supportive since his nephew was diagnosed with lymphoma cancer aged 19.

Samantha added: " We have two children of 10 and seven years and we are all really proud of him.

"Anyone who wishes to sponsor him can donate via his website on *www.justgiving.com/chopperharris*

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Rhoose family's touching tribute to 'popular' man

'A MAN who had time for everyone and was very popular' – that was how the family of a Rhoose man, who was killed while out walking his dog, has paid tribute to him.

Mr Gary Turner died following a road traffic collision in the village late on Thursday evening, August 13.

In a tribute, his family said they would remember him as someone with a love of life.

The family said: "Our brother Gary Turner was tragically taken away from us and will be greatly missed by all he left behind, especially his partner, his children, nieces and nephews.

"He was a well known character in the village and loved life and anything to do with the outdoors.

ABOVE: Gary Turner.

"He had time for everyone and was very popular and will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him."

A police spokesman said: "The collision happened at around 10.20pm on Thursday, August 13 in the cul-de-sac at Murlande Way, Rhoose, when a green Daewoo Lanos car was in collision with a male pedestrian who was walking his dog in the area at the time.

"We are appealing to anyone who witnessed the collision or the movements of the male walking his dog prior to the collision, to contact us on 101."

Appeal after fatal collision near St Athan

A 27-year-old man died at St Athan on Friday, August 14, following a road traffic collision.

The incident took place on the B4265 at 12.50pm.

A police spokesman said: "An articulated car transporter, which was travelling in an easterly direction, was in collision with a Vauxhall van which was travelling in the opposite direction.

"The 27-year-old male driver of the Vauxhall van, who was from the Hengoed area, suffered fatal injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene.

"The 43 year old male driver of the car transporter, who was from the Gloucester area, has been assisting police with their enquiries into the collision."

The road was closed for many hours while a forensic examination of the scene was conducted.

A family liaison officer is supporting the dead man's family

The police spokesman added: "We are appealing to witnesses to the collision or to people who may have seen the driving of either vehicle beforehand."

Witnesses are asked to contact the Serious Collision Investigation Unit on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

THEFT DOESN'T STOP DAVID

Porthcawl 80-year-old gets back on his bike

IF you are approaching your 80th birthday, and a thief makes off with your bike, then you might take it as a sign to give up.

That is definitely not the case with Coun David Newton-Williams, three times the Mayor of Porthcawl, who is pictured celebrating his 80th birthday on his new mountain bike.

Coun Newton-Williams' old bike was stolen a few weeks ago when he left it unattended for a moment in John Street.

Family and friends clubbed together to buy him a brand new mountain bike as an extra special birthday present.

PHOTOGRAPH by KEITH E MORGAN

Police in Bridgend and the Vale offer a fresh pledge to the public

POLICING in the newly re-organised Bridgend and Vale division was the subject at a community liaison meeting recently, where councillors were told about a new pledge to the public.

Supt Liane James spoke to members of the Vale Council's community liaison committee, and outlined the 'Policing Pledge' that was adopted from December 31, 2008.

She said that there were four key pillars covered by the pledge:

- Fairness, dignity and respect.
- Community engagement and consultation.
- Contact management and response.
- Victim, witness and customer care.

Supt James highlighted a number of examples where "negative encounters" with the police had affected satisfaction levels but she said that poor behaviour and attitudes within the force were being addressed.

The force expected to continue to give opportunities to meet with the police through Neighbourhood Policing Teams, PACT, panel meetings, surgeries and mobile stations.

PACT priorities detailed how they were decided, who was consulted, how long they would run for and what progress had been delivered.

Members of the committee congratulated Supt James on her assessment of the current police service. She indicated that recent crime figures were the lowest for 20 years but, as the public still did not feel safe, it was how best to communicate this information to provide reassurance.

She was asked what was the current position with regard to recruitment and retention, as Community Police Service Officers seemed to change regularly, just as they were beginning to know an area.

She replied that CPSO positions tended to be a'feeder' for persons wanting to join the Police Service. For this reason, it would be very difficult to deny a good CPSO the opportunity for progression, and could fail to manage their career expectations

Another questioner said that involvement in PACT had earned respect for the work of local officers. Was there a commitment from Police to keep this going?

Supt James said that feedback had indicated that PACT meetings could seem a little tired with the same people involved all the time.

There was a commitment to keep PACT going, but new initiatives would be considered and recently, the police had visited a local care home to engage with a different part of the community.

Inspector Mark Taylor confirmed that there had been lots of work on the front line within the area and in May and June 2009 there had been 42 arrests and many seizures of drugs.

He also pointed to improved statistics comparing the April, May, June quarter in 2008 compared with the same period in 2009, where reported crime had fallen.

Burglary had fallen from 96 cases to 73, a fall of 24 per cent.

Robbery had gone from nine to four. Car theft had fallen from 64 to 56, a drop of 22 per cent.

Theft from cars had gone down from 19 to 15, a fall of 24 per cent.

Finally, assaults and other crimes had dropped from a high point of 195 to 75, a fall of 60 per cent!

Exercises carried out at Barry Waterfront had led to nine vehicles being seized, 66 ASBO referrals and the issue of 80 fixed penalty notices for parking offences.

The recently introduced exclusion orders to prevent the drinking of alcohol in public areas at Barry Island, the Waterfront and parks appeared to be working well.

South Wales Police had recently carried out operations at gateways into the Vale area and this seemed to have sent out the right message as criminal incidents had decreased significantly at Culverhouse Cross since this time.

A questioner referred to a recent PACT meeting that had taken place and what seemed to be an overly defensive response of councillors to a matter raised by a resident.

Insp Taylor indicated that councillors' attendance at PACT meetings tended to be spasmodic due to their other commitments but their input was always welcome, and generally attendance had improved.

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CHARITY FUNDRAISERS SAY: 'DON'T SHOOT US – WE'RE ONLY THE PIANO SMASHERS!'

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

AUGUST started on a discordant note as five old pianos were smashed to smithereens at a charity event.

It was organised by Gareth Maund, the landlord of the Prince of Wales in Kenfig, as a prelude to the annual Gambo Race, which is taking place on Sunday, August 30.

Five very old and decrepit upright pianos were lined up in the car park of the Prince of Wales, each ready to be 'tuned' by five teams, made up of six 'experts'.

The rules of the contest were simple. Each team was equipped with two sledge hammers, a hard brush, a shovel and protective clothing.

At the sound of the start horn, each team was to smash their piano into small enough pieces so that the bits could be fed through the holes in the panel surrounding the rubbish disposal skip.

The first team to demolish their piano and clear away all the debris was the winner, and that honour fell to the team from Braceys builders!

ABOVE: The winning team from Braceys (and the runners-up) receive their prize.

ABOVE: Johnny Lloyd with landlord Gareth Maund (left).

ABOVE and BELOW:
The teams get psyched up before the competition.

ABOVE and BELOW:
These two teams have both trained at the Paris Conservatoire for musical deconstruction!

ABOVE: PCSO Leslie and 'Lopper' Wilson, the Gambo Race supremo.

BELOW:
These youngsters were dying to get in on the piano smashing act, but had to be content with cleaning up after.

RIGHT:
Some of the Prince of Wales regulars, Dr Keith James, Graham Jones and Jeffrey Carpenter, who watched from a safe distance as they supported the event.

LET'S CLICK TOGETHER

The Glamorgan GEM

DIGITAL EDITION

FOR GEM readers everywhere – not just the Vale and Bridgend – the great news is that there is an on-line edition of the newspaper.

It means that if a copy of the paper is not to hand, it can still be accessed on a computer screen within seconds by going to *www.barry-today.co.uk*, *www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk*, *www.cowbridge-today.co.uk*, or *www.bridgend-today.co.uk* – depending on the edition a person wants to read.

People who used to live in south Wales, but now live abroad, have the chance to regularly catch up with news in the Vale and Bridgend.

The on-line GEM turns pages at the click of a button and there is a simple 'zoom' tool to magnify the text.

For advertisers there are big advantages too.

Advertisements reach an even wider audience and the website addresses and emails quoted on adverts are 'live' which means a reader can click through to the firm's site, or send a message to the business.

Ben Edwards, the marketing manager of PageSuite, who have provided the software for the new venture, said: "We are positive GEM readers will love their new digital newspapers. Our software is used by top publishers the world over – with more than one million customers reading PageSuite digital editions every month.

"We have a stylish and easy to use interface, incredible search and share tools, and can be downloaded and printed to be read off-line too."

People who have viewed The GEM on-line tell us they have been really impressed.

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LLANTWIT'S SUMMER SOUNDS MUSIC FESTIVAL IS HAILED A GREAT SUCCESS!

ABOVE: We came for the music and had our faces painted at the same time!

'A great day out' at Summer Sounds

CONGRATULATIONS to Summer Sounds – a great Sunday out and a most enjoyable week.

We all enjoyed the atmosphere. Thanks for all your hard work.

We are looking forward to 2010 already!

Eileen Bennett, Llantwit Major

ABOVE: These charming men proved highly entertaining.
BELOW: It appears face painting was a popular pastime at the event!

THE Llantwit Major-based Summer Sounds group completed its most successful festival of music to date, with a heady mix of music, food and drink (and face painting) with a family atmosphere and goodwill in abundance.

The week kicked off with a launch at the Old White Hart, followed by events at Bethel Baptist Church, Llantonian Hall and St Illtyd's Church.

The week culminated on Sunday, August 16, with a free extravaganza at Llantwit Major's shopping precinct which saw eight diverse acts from 'Neil Diamond' to folk, to rock, to soul, perform for a packed all-day audience.

Major Music chairman, Phil Kirkham, Said: "I have been involved in the Summer Sounds festival for the first four years and with all honesty can say this has been by far the most successful."

Mrs Ann Matthews, the town council's representative on the Summer Sounds Committee, said: "The town must take great pride in the way both young and old got together to enjoy this event. It was fantastic to see fathers and sons, and mothers and daughters singing along to songs such as 'Mustang Sally' at the finale.

"We hope this event will be a firm date in everyone's calendar in the future."

ABOVE: The Amigos, featuring guitar virtuoso Gary Phillips.

Thanks to the Summer Sounds audience

ON behalf of the organising committee, may I thank all those people who supported the series of events that went on in the town between August 8-16.

From the launch event in The White Hart pub, to the Sunday 'all day event' in the precinct on August 16, the town, and visitors were superb in both support and conduct.

The Sunday event saw Llantwit Major at its best, with young and 'not so young' joining together to listen to a diverse mixture of sounds. We felt, as a committee, that the assembled audience were a credit to Llantwit Major.

Also, many thanks to The GEM for their continued support of this event.

Dave Roberts, (Summer Sounds)

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Police plan to protect golf club this summer

POLICE are carrying out a summer campaign to protect a Vale golf club from school holiday vandals.

South Wales Police are investigating a number of incidents of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club – all since the beginning of the school summer break.

The criminal damage has included flags being damaged and taken out of the golf holes, seed boxes turned upside down, trees being damaged and the most recent incident being a flag burnt with an accelerant, causing permanent damage to the turf underneath which now has to be replaced.

PC Mark Goulding of Cowbridge Police Station said: "The golf club has been repeatedly targeted over the past few years during the summer months and incidents of criminal damage have increased considerably and we're asking anyone with information to contact us.

"Most of the damage has occurred during the late evening when the club closes. This continued and systematic criminal and anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated by police.

"We are carrying out extra police patrols in the grounds of the golf club on a nightly basis. Officers will be patrolling the area using mobile golf carts, and police dog handlers will be checking the perimeter fencing of the golf club and other areas of the course."

He added: "The golf club will also be taking security measures to prevent further loss and damage to them."

Anyone with information on these incidents, should contact PC Mark Goulding at Cowbridge Police Station on 101; or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

LEFT: *Head greenkeeper Tyron Garland and PCSO Angela Stone at a fire-damaged green on Wenvoe Castle Golf Club.*

NEW SYSTEM IS BEATING BED-BLOCKING IN THE VALE – says NHS TRUST

CARDIFF and Vale NHS Trust says that a new way of treating older patients and reducing prolonged hospital stays is getting a warm welcome from patients and staff in Cardiff and the Vale.

Cardiff and the Vale Local Health Boards, and local authorities and the NHS Trust have received Welsh Assembly Government funding to create Transitional Care Units.

These new units, at Willowbrook and Shire Hall Nursing Homes in Cardiff, and across the Vale, allow patients to be assessed and receive care from specialist teams.

This means they have the right support and preparation to return to independent living or to a nursing home. Previously, they would have had their long term care needs assessed in hospital or at home.

Jonathon Davies, the director of operations at Cardiff and Vale NHS Trust said: "When patients no longer need specialist in-patient medical care, but require assessment for long term care in the community, they often remain in hospital for unacceptably long periods.

"The Transitional Care Units (TCUs) are supported by new assessment teams that include specialist consultants and nurses, GPs, physiotherapists, dieticians, occupational therapists, social workers, speech and language therapists and also care home managers.

"This means several organisations are working closely to support the patient. Staff within the health and social care community have commented that they are now able to deliver better care."

Jenny Theed, the nurse director for Cardiff Local Health Board, said: "The evidence is that the TCUs are working well. Since we introduced these units, more patients have been assessed, more have been able to return home with care packages and very few have stayed longer than the six-week assessment period expected.

"More importantly, we have been able to manage patient and family expectations better, during what can be a difficult period."

Jim Thompson, the executive nurse for the Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board, said: "The aim of transitional care beds in the Vale is the same as in Cardiff, but the process is slightly different.

"We operate a 'virtual wards' system, with beds in nursing homes across the Vale to ensure patients are placed near to their own homes. They receive continuity of care from their own GPs and the ongoing involvement of an assessment team.

"We have a more flexible approach to the assessment period, to allow patients to experience a different care setting after a long period spent in hospital."

Ty Hafan lottery

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan lottery draw number 579.

● **£2000:** 242356. ● **£500:** 170862 ● **£100:** 759277. ● **£50:** 331621. ● **£10:** 852522; 458376; 290953; 109480; 216459; 865848; 429339; 823113; 559903; 695079; 528186; 263214; 424914; 397371; 666587; 798728; 781058; 169926; 245041; 226852. ● **£5:** 842168; 637790; 242446; 779405; 511070; 422668; 595005; 773780; 204939; 702500; 357164; 235602; 725635; 454143; 896015; 325877; 486040; 202418; 795244; 227597; 153775; 579310; 251854; 219842; 749144; 376921; 210953; 799154; 287257; 519080.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

New Barry Second World War exhibition to open next month

A two-week long exhibition commemorating the role that the people of Barry played in the Second World War will officially open on Saturday, September 12, at Art Central in Barry Library.

Local military historian, Dr Jonathan Hicks, a regular contributor to The GEM, has assembled a fascinating collection of memories and photographs from that momentous period, and these will be on display as a collection for the first time.

Dr Hicks said: "At a time when we are only too well aware of the sacrifice made by our armed forces in Afghanistan, it is pertinent to look back at the contribution our relatives made to the defeat of the Axis powers from 1939-1945.

"Next month sees the 70th anniversary of the start of World War Two and many events will be held nationally. I approached our local council and asked what could be done to commemorate this event and I was offered Art Central for a two-week period.

"This is an opportunity for the people of the Vale to recall how this conflict affected Barrians.

"The articles I have written for The GEM over the past two years have attracted widespread interest, with many dozens of contacts bringing forth photographs and additional information on the subject matter.

"This has, in itself, led to the preparation of more material and shows that there is enormous interest in Barry and the Vale in the history of the area during the Second World War.

"I will be in attendance on the three Saturdays and look forward to speaking with visitors about their memories of the Second World War.

"Until such time as Barry has its own museum, events such as this are one of the few ways that local people can come together to share their interest in the history of our town."

War and famine at Cosmeston

COSMESTON Medieval Village, near Penarth, will be delving back to the dark and terrible times of the year 1350 on Sunday, August 30, and Monday, August 31, to recreate a time of war, plague and famine!

Between 11am-5pm each day, a rebuilt medieval community with villagers, animals, gardens and buildings full of medieval artefacts will be on display, all re-enacting what life was like more than 600 years ago.

There will be armoured warriors fighting with sword and axe, hopefully not requiring the attention of the medieval surgeon who will be at the fair all day.

There will be the chance to get involved and try your hand at archery, while live medieval music will help to set the scene.

For further information, call 02920 701678 or visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Show time at Llancarfan!

THE fourth village show to be held in Llancarfan takes place on Saturday, August 22.

The results of the judging will be on show to the public from 2pm and the cups and the RHS Banksian Medal will be presented by Coun Gordon Kemp at 3pm.

A show spokeswoman said: "Appeals for patrons has had an overwhelming response, and the show is becoming a popular annual event in the rural Vale for both adults and schoolchildren."

Further information is available from Sue Taylor on 01446 781337.

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BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL NEWS

Sri Lankan trip opens pupils' eyes to a new culture

ABOVE: Corinne with her grade 6 art class.

ABOVE: Ben Phipps offering some computer tips on a return visit to Maliadewa Vidyalaya (our original partner school).

Children from Temple School with school bags donated by Help Lanka.

Matt Moore and Matt White playing rugby with the boys.

ABOVE: Mr Pricket and Sri Lankan counterpart point to home on the school map.

LEFT: Team Sri Lanka at Galle Fort.

BELOW: Sinhala Dancing in front of the whole school.

ABOVE: Esther using her artistic talent in face painting.

RIGHT: Mr Prickett with Horrowala Junior School staff.

ABOVE: The newly formed Horrowala Junior School RFC.

AFTER months of preparation, Team Sri Lanka 09 set off on the long journey from Barry Comprehensive School to Sri Lanka, known as the tear drop of India.

This was the second visit by students and staff from Barry Comprehensive, working in partnership with the UK-based charity, Help Lanka.

Mr Prickett and Miss Allen from the geography department accompanied seven sixth form students to the Bentota region to develop new links with a school and an orphanage for boys.

Barry Comprehensive pupils and their parents, along with the local community, were hugely supportive of the visit and we owe thanks to everyone who donated resources, time and money. We would particularly like to thank Holton Road AFC and Barry Island Primary for their donations of sports kit.

Team Sri Lanka are also very grateful to the staff and pupils at Horrowala Junior School and Jayasignha Home for Boys, who made us feel very welcome and embraced us and our ideas with enthusiasm.

We are committed to the long-term partnership between Barry Comprehensive and schools in Sri Lanka and are already planning a return visit next July. *If you would like to know more about Help Lanka, visit the Help Lanka website, www.helplanka.co.uk.*

Here are some of the team's thoughts and feelings following the trip:

"We were working in a different region this year to widen our impact in the country but a highlight for me was returning to Maliadewa Vidyalaya (our original partner school) to visit the staff and pupils.

"The laptops we donated last year were being put to good use by a grade 11 accounting class, a new art class had been created and the grade 5 class sizes had been reduced.

"Horrowala School is a small junior school near Bentota. The 200 staff and pupils made us feel extremely welcome and were very keen to share their culture with us. The school's dance teacher and grade-7 girls taught us a Sinhala dance, which we then performed to the whole school on the last day.

"The boys meanwhile were developing a passion for rugby under the guidance of Team Sri Lanka.

"Overall, we shared aspects of our culture and learned a lot from each other!"

MISS ALLEN

"Sri Lanka 09 really gave me the opportunity to embrace a different culture and a chance to make a difference in the lives of Sri Lankan children less privileged than ourselves. The most rewarding part of the trip was visiting the local boys' orphanage where we could actually see ourselves making a difference to the children's lives by playing sports with them.

"A special experience for me was face painting one of the orphans, Sanka, who really seemed to benefit from our visits.

"Over the two weeks we were all able to see Sanka come out of his shell. It has been a very rewarding experience, and I will hopefully return in the future."

ESTHER HOLLEY

"My expectations of Sri Lanka were mixed because the country has suffered from a civil war and a tsunami. However, after arriving in the country, the gratitude shown by the Sri Lankans, adults and children alike, was overwhelming.

"Dances and other ceremonies were put on many times to welcome us into schools and orphanages.

"In the classroom, it was sometimes a challenge when trying to communicate in English to those who only know Singhalese, yet their enthusiasm to learn and to take part and the sense of achievement after teaching something new and different made it worthwhile.

"Probably the most rewarding part of the trip was the interaction you were able to have in playing sport, especially with the children at the orphanage. An experience to treasure."

JACK WESTERLAND

"This year's trip to Sri Lanka was well worth every second spent preparing to go. I found it hard to believe I was back in a Sri Lankan classroom teaching the kids Welsh and English culture.

"The prospect of visiting new schools and an orphanage was exciting and luckily for myself, Matt and Miss Alle, we also visited our original partner school just outside Hikkaduwa.

"It was great to see the same faces and amazing that they still remembered us and some of the things we taught them.

"This made me realise that these trips were not a waste of time and that we are helping by returning to Sri Lanka. This gave me an even greater rewarding feeling. I also really enjoyed our short tour visiting some world heritage sites such as Polonnaruwa and the Golden Temple in Dambulla and other tourist attractions such as Pinawella elephant orphanage."

BEN PHIPPS

"This wonderful experience provided the whole group with the opportunity to sample not only a different culture, but also to live among and work with local people.

"I found the teaching very challenging but extremely enjoyable and I particularly enjoyed coaching rugby with the boys at Horrawula School.

"They showed real enthusiasm and talent for the game. The staff were also keen to learn and wish to set up permanent links with Wales which will allow them to get the game up and running in other schools in the area.

"I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone involved in the organisation and running of the trip. This includes Miss Allen, Mr. Swallow and Help Lanka. It has been a life changing experience and one that I will not forget."

MR PRICKETT

"To begin with, I found teaching in the schools really challenging but the children were really keen to learn and settled in well. I taught a few lessons on colour and family and even got the children involved in some art lessons, which they really enjoyed.

"The trip was really rewarding and I'm glad to have been involved in such an amazing, once in a lifetime experience."

CORINNE WILLIAMS

"On special request by history teacher Mr Piante, at Horrowala School we set up rugby coaching with the year-10 and year-11 boys with the aim to share our national game and culture and to reduce the drop out rates in the school by giving the older boys something to focus on.

"The coaching was a resounding success, led by Mr Prickett setting up games, training drills and teaching the rules and tactics. The rugby team used kit donated by Holton Road AFC."

MATT MOORE

"Going to Sri Lanka was one of the best trips of my life and I'm very grateful I was given the chance to go.

"The highlight of the trip for me was going to the orphanage because it is so rewarding knowing that I helped to make a difference to the boys' lives by spending two hours a day playing sport with them.

"Overall, the trip was an amazing experience, from going to the schools to getting to see some of Sri Lanka on our tour, particularly the elephant orphanage and Kandy."

MATTHEW WHITE

"The entire experience was incredible, every aspect of the country told a story; you could still see the last remnants of the tsunami in areas like Galle.

"I loved helping to build communities and being a part of what Help Lanka had already started. Even though I was the one teaching, I felt I learnt a lot from the children, especially at the orphanage, being with the boys there made me grow-up.

"They may have been shoeless, but they had togetherness, with the older boys looking out for the younger ones. They were happy and we made their faces beam and the beaming always rubbed off on us… it was just plain amazing.

"I will miss all of them and I will certainly be going back next year!"

BLAKE KNIGHT

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Are you ready?

digital switch over

Make sure you are prepared for television's new digital age and the big 'switchover'!

THE DIGITAL TV age is upon us – so what exactly does that mean?

The digital TV switchover is the process of turning the UK's analogue TV signal and replacing it with a digital one.

The switchover is a Government policy and in the long term means that almost everyone in the UK will be able to receive digital TV through an aerial (Freeview).

There are major benefits for viewers in going digital – more TV channels, new features such as on-screen listings, interactivity, audio description, more subtitling for people with hearing problems, and additional channels and services including broadband.

The switchover affects any TV that receives its signal from an aerial.

If you use an aerial it will receive its signal from a transmitter in the UK – there are more than 1,150 transmitters organised around 80 transmitter groups that will switch to digital one by one. Each group has a main switchover transmitter and local relay transmitters.

Prior to switchover, local relay transmitters are only able to transmit an analogue signal; after switchover it will be digital and the number of channels will increase from five to 20.

It is important that you understand which transmitter you are watching – your switchover date depends on that transmitter.

If you are watching a main transmitter you will receive more than 40 digital channels. If you are watching a relay transmitter you will receive around 20 channels.

If you go to *www.digitaluk.co.uk* you can put in your postcode and check when the switchover will take place in your area. For example, CF63 – Barry – will have a two-stage switchover in March 2010 from the Wenvoe transmitter.

The first stage of the switchover is to purchase a Freeview box. You may need someone to set it up for you, or you may be able to do it yourself.

If you need help, the companies on this page will be able to set you up.

You do not require a new television.

By checking at *www.digitaluk.co.uk* you can compare services with a digital options table.

Nearly all TV sets can be converted to digital with a digital box. Look for the digital tick logo – if a product has it, it is designed to continue working after the switchover.

You will need to consider all the TV equipment in your home when preparing for switchover.

How many TVs do you have in your home? Consider every TV set that you want to continue watching. Any TV left unconverted will not work after switchover.

Most rooftop aerials and some set-top aerials will be fine after switchover. If you decide to get a service like Freeview, BT Vision or Top Up TV, you can check your aerial by visiting the aerial test on Teletext page 284.

If you decide to get your digital TV service from Sky TV, Virgin Media, Freesat from Sky or Freesat on all the TV sets in your home, you won't need an aerial.

How much does switching cost?

Switching to digital doesn't need to be expensive. The price will vary depending on the digital choices you make.

The things to consider are:

- The number of TVs in your home you choose to convert.
- Whether you choose to pay one upfront cost or pay monthly for a subscription service. If you choose to buy a standard digital box, an HD digital box, an integrated digital TV (iDTV), or a digital TV recorder (which will also convert your TV to digital) you will want to go to a retailer.
- Whether to choose to subscribe to additional channels (e.g. movies and sports) or services (e.g. broadband, telephone or HD TV).

Don't forget that amidst all the technical jargon, help is at hand from the companies on this page!

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Barry Town's 'new blood' proves too much for Dinas in derby day tussle

BARRY manager Gavin Chesterfield introduced new blood into the side at Dinas Powys, including ex-premier league player (and prolific scorer) Ian Jones.

The game began as everyone expected, very competitively, but with neither side dominating, and play switching from end to end.

Barry then got the edge and scored a delightful goal in the 34th minute. Striker Josh Bell, who really looks the part with his movement and ability to find space, shook off his marker from just inside the box and hit a lovely controlled shot into the far corner of the Dinas net.

The half-time whistle came with Barry just on top.

The second half began with Dinas pressing strongly, creating several opportunities.

Former Barry player James Dixon created havoc with his pace and control, and but for some resolute defending from Barry's man-of-the-match Kirk Huggins and young defender Lewis Cosslett, might easily have equalised.

Centre back Kurt Bettles, a former Dinas player, had his hands full containing a lively Dinas No 9.

However, it was the Dragons who scored again shortly into the half, with the alert James Simpson latching on to a through ball and showing great composure, slipping the ball past Dinas 'keeper Craig Attard and into the net (2-0).

The village side then began to force Barry onto the back foot, bringing one superb save from Dan Bradley in the Barry goal.

They were rewarded for their efforts, however, when the ever-dangerous Dixon went outside the defender and crossed, and the officials ruled it a handball offence by a Town player, resulting in a penalty. Ricky Morgan expertly dispatched the spot-kick.

Barry's third goal of the game came deep into injury time, Ian Jones out-jumping the opposing keeper and heading into the net for his first goal in his first competitive league game for the club.

With new players needing time to bed in, it's early days for the Town. Overall, though, the signs look good for the season.

The 'Tour de Vale' attracts strong field

CYCLE racing fans will be out this Sunday, August 23 to welcome back the Wasp Road Race to Cowbridge.

Mayor Jon Harris will start the 70-mile race at 11.15am in the High Street, when 80 bike racers will compete on the same course set in 1985, taking in Ewenny, St Brides Major, Llantwit, Llandow and the Cowbridge by-pass, finishing at the petrol station at about 2pm.

All of the south Wales cycle clubs are represented, including the host club, Ogmore Valley Wheelers.

Their newly-promoted second category junior, Graham Howell, has had a two terrific seasons and is expected to do well.

Forza Cycles of Llantwit have their best men out and will not be under-estimating the challenge from the English clubs who have travelled hundreds of miles to take part in this well established event.

Look out for the results in next week's GEM.

We welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: *ggem@internet-today.co.uk*

Drinks crackdown by Barry Island police

THE creation of a Designated Public Place at Barry Island is already proving a success, according to the neighbourhood policing team responsible for the area.

PCSO Wayne Chant said that there is a marked improvement in the public's behaviour when they visit the area.

However, he said that some people still try and ignore the official designation as an alcohol free area.

Last week, he confiscated a large quantity of alcohol from a group of youths who had travelled to Barry Island by train from the south Wales valleys.

He said: "We regularly patrol the beaches and public areas on Barry Island, and will not tolerate any breach of the designated alcohol exclusion zones.

PCSO Wayne Chant pictured with alcohol seized at Barry Island.

"We have taken the details of the youths who brought alcohol with them to Barry Island, and will be following this up.

"There are plenty of signs indicating the new alcohol exclusion zones, and we will continue to police them efficiently.

"While the majority of people are sensible and considerate, there are a few who gather to drink alcohol and act in an anti-social manner, and these people will find the police taking a firm line.

"We want people to enjoy themselves responsibly when they visit Barry Island, but if they engage in anti-social behaviour they will be arrested and charged."

PC Dave Barrett, licensing officer for the Vale of Glamorgan said: "Police and Police Community Support Officers have the power to confiscate and dispose of alcohol being consumed within the drinking exclusion zones in the Vale.

"If a person fails to comply with the request given by the police officer or a PCSO, a Fixed Penalty Notice of £50 can be issued and an Anti Social Behaviour referral submitted.

"Police Officers also have the power to arrest and charge, and report for summons where the penalty can be increased to £500."

Minister takes a walk along improved coastal cliff path

THE Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Hilary Benn MP, recently visited the coastal footpath at Lavernock.

As part of the Prime Minister and cabinet's visit to Wales, ministers took the opportunity to visit various projects relating to their portfolios.

Coun Anthony Ernest, council cabinet member for tourism and leisure, welcomed Mr Benn to Lavernock Point and Lower Penarth to discuss recent developments.

The Vale Council, along with other coastal authorities in Wales, is benefiting from the Welsh Assembly Government's Coastal Access Programme which is designed to ensure an all-Wales coast path by 2012.

A council spokeswoman said: "During the last two years, substantial improvements have been made to the path between the Cliff Walk at Penarth and Lavernock Point, utilising £109,000 of grant aid from the Countryside Council for Wales.

"The path, which is around 1,000m in length, has been transformed from a muddy track to one which is now accessible to pushchairs and wheelchair users, with suitably designed kissing gates at each end, and provides easy walking gradients throughout its length."

Mr Benn said that he had greatly enjoyed his walk in the sunshine along this newly-restored cliff path.

AM backs Barry museum

AT a recent meeting with Mr David Simpson, who has been promoting the important maritime history of Barry, Vale AM Jane Hutt thanked him for highlighting the important role of Barry people, and its ships, in serving their country in the 20th century.

She said: "I have learnt so much from Mr Simpson about the role of Barry people serving on the ships that went to war from what is a world famous port, and I believe this should be widely shared with our schools and communities.

"A museum for Barry would help us achieve this. Barry must be put on the map for its maritime history."

Find us online - www.barry-today.co.uk

WIN A CHANCE TO DRIVE A JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE FOR A WEEKEND with James & Jenkins and The Glamorgan GEM

2009 is a year of double celebrations for family owned and run car dealership James & Jenkins Garage in Station Road, Llandaff North, Cardiff.

Last month, managing director, Mark James announced the successful acquisition of Wales' only Chrysler Dodge & Jeep franchise and was delighted to unveil several of the iconic brand vehicles at the prestigious Vale Show, which took place at Fonmon Castle this week.

The company, which is also an approved Vauxhall after sales and service centre of excellence, will also be celebrating its 25th anniversary in October of this year.

To mark this double success story, James & Jenkins garages have joined forces with the **Glamorgan GEM** to give readers an opportunity to win the use of a brand new Jeep Grand Cherekee for a weekend. To be in with a chance of experiencing the superlative drive of this award winning American 4 x 4 for 48 hrs, simply answer the following question correctly:

Q. What iconic American franchise did James & Jenkins Garages announce the acquisition of last month?

Answers must be submitted on a post card or back of an envelope please, and must include the senders name, full address (including post code), and day time telephone number.

Send to:
James & Jenkins Garages (Grand Cherokee Weekend Competition) Station Road, Llandaff North, Cardiff, CF14 2FB.

Terms and conditions

Competion entrants must be aged 21 or over. The first correct answer selected at random will win the competition prize. Competition closes Fri 28 August. There is no cash alternative, and the prize is not transferable. James & Jenkins Garages reserve the right to select the date of delivery of the prize. For more information on James & Jenkins Garages and Crysler Dodge Jeep log on to www.jamesandjenkinsgarages.co.uk

PORTHCAWL SEA FESTIVAL

Check it out: **Sunday, 23rd August - Sunday, 30th August**

A good old-fashioned day out at the seaside is hard to beat!

THE fall in the £ and the rise of the Euro has meant that, all of a sudden, people are reassessing the merits of holidays in the UK.

The whole town of Porthcawl – from town council to chamber of trade – from pubs to restaurants – and from guest houses to hotels – are all looking to make the best of a new mindset among UK holidaymakers.

Porthcawl's Sea Festival (previewed in detail on the facing page) is a flagship event in the summer calendar of the resort.

It includes timeless attractions such as the sandcastle competition (below) and a Sunday Songs of Praise, in the peaceful setting of the town's harbour.

However, one thing that always makes visitors come back again and again is the coastline.

There are easy walks along the promenades of the town, stretching almost two miles.

Alternatively, the more able walker can set out through the sand dunes of Newton Burrows, or head west from Rest Bay until you reach the endless flat stretch that is Kenfig Sands.

Once again, Porthcawl is taking the chance to show people that it has something for everyone.

ABOVE: Some of the contestants in last year's sandcastle competition in Porthcawl. The Coney Beach event has become a favourite with both local and visitors. (See facing page for details)

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PORTHCAWL SEA FESTIVAL

Check it out: **Sunday, 23rd August - Sunday, 30th August**

IT'S A PACKED WEEK OF FUN AND MUSIC DURING PORTHCAWL'S SEA FESTIVAL

PORTHCAWL puts on its Sunday best for its Sea Festival - and it runs from Sunday (August 23) to the next Sunday (August 30).

The town always looks its best in the summer, and although the weathermen have disappointed a fair number of visitors who were expecting a scorching summer, Porthcawl's timeless assets still mark it out as a great place to visit.

What the town's Sea Festival does is to put that extra spice into an old familiar dish.

The week starts with a traditional event, the Sunday afternoon sing-a-long, 'Songs of Praise by the Sea' at Cosy Corner, alongside the harbour, starting at 2.30pm on August 23.

Organised by Churches Together in Porthcawl, the singers will be carried along by the Ogmore Valley Silver Band, who will be playing 'solo' from 2.30pm, followed at 3.15pm by a jazz break from Wayne Warlow.

At 3.30pm, the Porthcawl Choral Society and the Trinity Singers will lead the hymn singing.

On Monday, August 24, Gwyn Petty presents 'Porthcawl Past and Present' – an illustrated talk on the development of Porthcawl, at 7.30pm in the YMCA in John Street.

Entry is free (donations to the Mayor's Charity Fund). It is presented by the Porthcawl Museum and Historical Society

The next event is a new one on the sea festival calendar. Local author Hayley Williams has recently published a book looking at hauntings in the town.

This year, Hayley will be taking ghost hunters on a tour of the spectral hot spots, telling tales of the history of the places, and the sad and eerie tales behind the reported apparitions.

The tour is on Thursday, August 27, and starts at 8pm from the Farmers Arms in Nottage.

On Friday, there is one of the most popular events of the festival, the sandcastle competition for children (up to 11 years old). As usual, it takes place on the perfect castle-building sands of Coney Beach, between 9.30am and 11.30am.

In the evening, and rather more for the grown-ups, is the car treasure hunt, and entrants should gather at the Dock Street Car Park in Porthcawl, for a 6.30pm start.

Running alongside the sea festival, over five days (August 27 - 31) on The Green at Salt Lake Car Park, Bridgend Festival is running its own 'Fun in the Sun' event, with craft stalls, a food hall, a sports hall, trade stands and live music every day.

The big day of the Porthcawl Sea Festival, of course, is the Saturday (August 29) where the events are concentrated around the harbour.

The day starts when the Bridgend Jazz Band marches from the Grand Pavilion at 11.50am, before giving a 15-minute concert at Cosy Corner.

At 1pm, the intriguingly-named 'Alternative Morris Dancers' step out for a 30-minute performance.

Half an hour later (2pm), the Fire Service extrication team will be staging a demonstration of how they deal with the problem of removing road traffic collision victims safely from the wreckage.

At 2.30pm, the Porthcawl Line Dancing Group will be giving the afternoon a Country and Western interlude, and at 3.15pm the St John Ambulance will be giving a display.

Meanwhile, there will be a treat for the children, with a Teddy Bears Picnic (bring along a favourite bear), and there will even be a story time at 3.30pm.

There is more to come on Sunday (August 30) – at noon at Rest Bay, the local lifeguards will be putting on a demonstration.

Finally, in the evening two events clash. At 6pm, local historian John David will be giving a three-hour presentation on 'Porthcawl Past and Present' – complete with a slide show, at Porthcawl YMCA in John Street.

Meanwhile, for those of a more literary bent, there will be a 'poems and pints' evening at the Lorelei Hotel, Esplanade Avenue (7pm - 9pm).

Hosted by Porthcawl poet Robert Minhinnick, aspiring poets (and non-poets) are invited to read their own work, or their personal favourites.

Poems should be on the general theme of the sea or the coastline, and last year's mayor, Coun David Newton-Williams will be one of the readers.

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Soroptimists send boxes of comfort to troops abroad

ABOVE: Club members with some of the items donated.

SEVERAL members of Soroptimist International, Barry and District, have close relatives who have served, or are serving, in conflicts abroad.

Knowing at first hand how much our forces appreciate gifts from home, they have been sending boxes to troops engaged in the war in Iraq since its commencement.

Members have particularly tried to target front line troops who are living in quite austere conditions, especially young men and women who often do not receive parcels from anyone at home.

Since last September 17, parcels have also been sent to Afghanistan, and members took the opportunity at a recent coffee morning to bring along items reported to be particularly welcomed, and pack boxes to be sent off within the next month.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this exercise has been the heart-warming letters the club has received from both commanding officers and the recipients, telling us how much this support from home means to them.

To find out more about Soroptimism visit www.soroptimist-gbi.org/

CSD

Castleland ward surgery

THE Vale councillors for Castleland Ward, Chris Elmore and Pamela Drake, and the Castleland Communities First team, will be holding a joint advice surgery for residents living on Bendrick and Hayes Roads, on Saturday, August 22 in the Atlantic Café between 10.30am-12pm.

All residents are welcome to attend.

Anyone who can't attend but who needs advice can contact Coun Elmore on 07867 506116.

BARRIVALE BRIDGE CLUB NEWS

THE latest results from Barrivale are as follows:

Tuesday, August 11: **1st** Betty Lewis and Mick Green 66.67 per cent; **2nd** Noelle Bond and Joan Jenkins 58.75 per cent; **3rd** Mark Roderick and Kay Dyer 57.50 per cent.

Betty and Mick also won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information ring 01446 733425.

Art exhibition opens in Penarth

THE Washington Gallery, Penarth, is staging an exhibition by Vernon Jones, entitled Seascapes, from August 21-September 21.

A gallery spokeswoman said: "This exhibition draws together a selection of atmospheric seascape paintings. A predominant feature of the work is its accuracy and detail."

Bryn Hafren staff and families race for life

ABOVE: The staff and families of Bryn Hafren

BRYN Hafren Staff and families took part again this year in the Race for Life.

It was the first time that some of the staff had entered the race, with the usual stalwarts of the group, and everyone finished the course in a creditable time.

More than £500 was raised this year for this memorable cause.

Valeways' new walking guide

A NEW guide to 'easy access walking' locations across the Vale has been launched by Valeways, supported by Health Challenge Vale.

The guide is a collection of locations in the Vale where families, children, individuals with mobility concerns and those looking to exercise more can find easy walks. The locations range from country parks to surprisingly remote destinations.

Gareth Simpson of Valeways said: "In developing this guide with our volunteers, Val Warlow and Ray Price, I was aware that there was little information pointing people to easy walk locations."

This guide will help more people to experience our great coast and countryside."

The Easy Walking guides are now available at libraries and tourist information centres across the Vale.

For further information contact Valeways on 01446 749000 or at www.valeways.org.uk www.valeways.org.uk

Day out to celebrate achievements

YMCA VOLUNTEERS IN BARRY ARE REWARDED

RIGHT: The YMCA volunteers at the rock climbing centre.

ON Thursday, August 6, the Barry YMCA took nine of their young volunteers rock climbing for the day to celebrate their achievements and dedication to their volunteering roles.

The volunteers are aged from 14 to 19 and took part in activities such as gymnastics coaching, administration, play work and general maintenance.

In total, 28 young people volunteer up to nine hours a week of their time.

The volunteers are awarded with certificates (bronze, silver, gold and platinum) for the number of hours they complete. When reaching 100 hours, the young people receive Barry YMCA volunteer sweatshirts.

The rock climbing event enabled volunteer coordinator Tom Roberts and gymnastics development coordinator, Fay Benningwood, to spend a fun day out with the youngsters, made possible by the Vale of Glamorgan 14 to 19 Learning Network.

It took place at the Welsh International Rock Climbing Centre, Bargoed.

The morning was spent scaling the climbing walls, with a high ropes course in the afternoon.

All the volunteers worked to the best of their ability, reaching their own individual goals on heights up to 50ft!

A great amount of team work and confidence building was involved, ensuring everyone had a great day.

If you are interested in any volunteering opportunities at the Barry YMCA, contact Tom Roberts on 01446 724014.

Pupils say farewell to school in fine style

Barry Comprehensive sixth formers at their Valedictory.

ONE of the highlights of the Barry sixth form calendar is the annual valedictory dinner, where all the students get together for the last time to celebrate the end of their secondary education.

Months before the evening, they are all fussing over their outfits, boys with tuxedos and the girls in ball gowns, limousines are booked and the countdown to a wonderful evening begins.

This year's event, at the Novotel Hotel, provided a fitting conclusion to sixth form life with entertaining speeches and good company.

AC

Barry College gains up-graded award

BARRY College has become the first college in Wales to be accredited with the Investors in People Leadership and Management Model.

The college was first awarded IiP status in 2007 and has been re-accredited this year. However, the college decided to enhance its original accreditation by working towards the Leadership and Management model.

A college subsidiary, the Vale of Glamorgan Training Association, the largest college-based work-based learning provider in Wales, has also been re-accredited with IiP status and has gained the Leadership and Management Model.

The model, one of three enhancements to IiP status, comprises a framework for ensuring Barry College has the most effective leadership possible, and that managers are "role models" for improvement and development.

Barry College principal Paul Halstead said: "Employees are the greatest asset to any organisation and it is important to recognise the role that staff play, especially in a labour intensive environment such as further education.

"The college has one aim – to be an excellent college, and this enhanced IiP status is yet another way of working towards that goal."

Police urge 'sensible' GCSE celebrations

THE Safer Vale Partnership is reminding students in the Vale to behave responsibly when they celebrate their GCSE results on Thursday, August 27.

Chief Inspector Jim Hall said: "Many young people have worked hard for their exams and are looking forward to receiving their results next week.

"However, I would strongly advise parents not to purchase alcohol for their children to help them celebrate.

"We will be increasing our patrols in the parks and public open spaces across the Vale throughout the day to deter under age drinking and any anti social behaviour."

He went on: "The police in the Vale will work closely with our partners, including the Pulse team of detached youth workers who will be interacting with the young people in public places.

"The police and Trading Standards officers will also be conducting alcohol test purchasing in the coming weeks.

"My message to everyone who gets their results next week is to enjoy the day and celebrate your achievements sensibly and safely."

Cartoon role for TV's Ruth Jones

GAVIN and Stacey star Ruth Jones will soon be heard in a very different role – as a posh dinosaur.

Ruth, from Porthcawl but now Cardiff-based, is lending her voice to a new prehistoric preschool children's animation *Igam Ogam* which is currently being made in Cardiff by Calon TV.

ABOVE: Igam, whose adventures will be narrated by Wales' own Ruth Jones.

Ruth is narrating the series, which is the latest animation from Calon, whose creative team made the worldwide hits *Superted*, *Sali Mali*, *Fireman Sam* and the recent Bafta-winning series *Hana's Helpline*.

Igam Ogam is Jurassic Fun for little ones and Igam is a charming little cave-girl who faces the daily challenges of prehistoric life with invincible optimism!

The managing director of Calon, Robin Lyons, said: "We were delighted that Ruth Jones was able to find time in her busy schedule to narrate the series. She also plays a posh pterodactyl, a very different role to Nessa!"

Ruth has already been into the sound studios in Butetown to record her part for the series, which will be screened in Welsh on S4C starting in November and on Five in the spring.

Back to School...

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Children will gain confidence at the Nicola Peros Ballet School

NICOLA PEROS Ballet School, a member of The Royal Academy of Dance, starts the new term on Saturday, September 5 at St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry.

Dance is extremely popular with all ages and is a healthy, enjoyable activity.

The Nicola Peros Ballet School specialises in a range of dance styles, ballet, jazz and street. Three to four-year-olds can take weekly classes in creative dance which helps them to gain confidence and make new friends.

The dance school performs a ballet at the Memorial Hall each year and invites children of any age for a dance workshop on Saturday, September 5, at 2pm at St Nicholas Hall.

For further information, please call Nicola on 01446 721899.

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Ruckleys – Barry's specialists in official uniforms

RUCKLEYS, the uniform specialists in Barry, are going from strength to strength.

As well as stocking the usual school uniform basics such as socks, trousers, skirts, pinafores, gym kits, cardigans, hair accessories and coats, they now stock a large proportion of local schools' official uniforms.

These schools include St Helen's, Sant Curig, Barry Island, Oakfield, Rhws, Barry Comprehensive and Barry Sixth form.

They have a changing room and are conveniently open seven days a week, and even offer an easy-plan uniform club to help save for the back to school period.

As usual, their Start-rite shoes are proving popular, probably due to the fact that they are full leather, available in half sizes and width fitting and come with a school-wear guarantee.

New this year, Ruckleys are now selling quality leather rugby boots at a fraction of the high street prices!

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Exam results? Careers Wales is here to help you

FOR many young people and their parents, the suspense of waiting for exam results can make for a stressful summer, especially in the current economic climate.

When results are finally out, those who did well will, hopefully, be able to put their career plans and ideas into action.

Some young people, however, who haven't decided what they want to do or haven't done as well as they expected, may need help to replan or rethink.

The message from Careers Wales Cardiff and Vale to anyone receiving exam results this summer is: "Don't panic – whatever your results, there are options open to you and lots of help to choose what's right for you."

As well as teachers and course tutors being available on A-level and GCSE results days, careers advisers will be visiting schools and colleges on those days to offer free information and advice.

Advisers will also be available at careers centres in Barry and Cardiff throughout the summer to help people with their future plans.

Clare Winnan, business manager at Barry Careers Centre, said: "Our advice to students is try not to make hasty decisions.

"Make sure you've got all the information you need, so that you can weigh up the pros and cons and make a decision based on what's best for you.

"We can help by offering free, impartial information about courses available, as well as employment and training opportunities."

For more information, contact your local careers centre in Barry (01446 410600) or Cardiff (029 2090 6700) or call our Learning and Careers Advice helpline 0800 100 900 (if calling from a mobile, please ring 029 2090 6801 - mobile rates apply).

Just got your exam results?

If you need to replan or rethink, talk to us now!

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HIGH STREET TRADERS' COMPETITION – YOUNG WINNERS COLLECT THEIR PRIZES

RIGHT:
The winners, with Tony Hopkins and Becky of Hair design, were 1st Jade Ann Heffernan - High St School; 2nd Ella Jayne Cooper - High St School; 3rd Daryl Davies - Bro Morgannwg.

LEFT:
The first runners-up were
Natasha Orpin - High St School
Amy Green - High St School
and Joshua Slatter - Gladstone School.

HIGH STREET TRADERS have announced the winners of their latest competition, with the youngsters taking a trip into Barry to receive their prizes from the traders' chairman Tony Hopkins.

The competition was a 'Spot the Mistake' challenge, with youngsters having to identify the odd item out in High Street traders' front windows. The winners received gift vouchers to spend locally.

RIGHT:
The second runners-up, with Sharon George and Zack Usher of MJM Computers and Tony Hopkins, were Marshall Davies - Romilly Park and Mercedes Pemberton - Ysgol Sant Baruc.

Poppy Appeal: Royal British Legion wins praise from Vale AM

BARRY branch members of the Royal British Legion recently went to the Senedd, where Vale AM Jane Hutt praised their fundraising for the Poppy Appeal.

The AM said: "The Poppy Appeal provides an important opportunity for the public to remember the outstanding contribution of our men and women in the services.

"The Barry branch of the Legion has raised more than £30,000 over the past year and I congratulate them on their successful appeal and their important role in our community."

ABOVE:
Jane Hutt AM and members of the British Legion at the Senedd.

Another exclusive GEM reader competition in conjunction with the National BBQ Association

Answer 2 simple questions to win a Gastro Alfresco BBQ Prize.

1. How many years Has national BBQ Week been running?

Answer: .....

2. Name three of the National BBQ Week sponsors

a ..... b ..... c .....

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Closing date of competition: 04/09/09
Please send your completed forms to:
The Glamorgan Gem, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL.
Usual terms and conditions apply. Judge's decision is final.
No correspondence will be entered into.

Hot summer provides an opportunity to get into the barbecue spirit!

DESPITE all the talk about the credit crunch, economic recession and doom and gloom, there is one thing set to bring a smile to faces in the UK; summer is on it's way and with it comes the 13th National BBQ 2009© campaign, featuring the 13th National BBQ Week™, the 2nd Alfresco Food Fortnight© and the 3rd Have a Better Barbi Day©!

The UK has had some gorgeous weather this summer, so what better excuse could you need to fire up the barbeque, invite friends and family around and make the most of the sunshine?

Eating alfresco, whether it's an impromptu barbeque or weekend party, is a gret way to enjoy yourself in your own home and garden. With this is mind, the theme of the 13th National BBQ - Gastro Alfresco© campaign says it all - ***'Staying in is the new going out!'***

However, it's not just about weekends anymore, as over 40% of all barbecue and alfresco occasions are now accounted for mid-week.

Now in its 13th highly successful year, the National BBQ Association is building on the Gastro Alfresco theme first introduced in 2007. The 2009 campaign highlights the better budget barbi options that mean ***'Staying in is the new going out!'***

The national BBQ Association has drawn some world-famous brands into the 2009 campaign – ***Bacofoil*** is supporting the campaign for 2009 as a ***Roadshow Partner,*** and ***Crabbie's Alcoholic Ginger Beer*** is on board as an official ***Gastro Barbi Partner*** following it's launch earlier this year.

Crisp, refreshing and with an ABV of 4%, ***Crabbie's Alcoholic Ginger Beer*** is the perfect accompaniment to summer BBQs.

Also on board as a ***Roadshow partner*** this year are ***Caribbean Twist*** ready to drink cocktails, including Mojito, Pina Colada and Mixed Mango. Also teaming up with the National BBQ Association for 2009 is ***Fruitiser,*** the gently sparkling 100% fruit juice drink, set to add some serious fruitiness to any BBQ this summer as the official ***soft drinks partner.***

Gallo Family Vineyards is the official ***wine partner*** of this years National BBQ Association Gastro Alfresco campaign. The award-winning E & J Gallo Winery will be showcasing a selection of Gallo Family Vineyard wines throughout the summer period – demonstrating that there is a quality wine for every alfresco get-together with friends and family.

Grand Marnier has become the ***official long summer drink partner*** and is encouraging us all to try their simple ***Grand Esprit,*** a refreshing yet exotic mix of Grand Marnier, elderflower cordial, sodawater, served over ice and garnished with orange slices and strawberries.

Another area is bakery, with ***Mission,*** the tortilla and wrap manufacturer becoming the official ***bakery partner.***

The ***6th Alfresco Experience Roadshow©*** will also once again be taking to the road, but this time it will be even bigger and better than ever with a more 'at home alfresco' look and feel. Centred on large demonstration trailers, which not only incorporate a full catering kitchen, here is also a stage with a BBQ and chef, plus garden tables and chairs all set on an astro turf base to create that barbeque atmosphere.

The ***Alfresco Experience Roadshow*** will visit over 140 Tesco Extras and Sainsbury's, Asda and Morrisons superstores across Britain this summer, between late May and early September.

Find out when the ***Alfresco Experience Roadshow*** will be in your area at www.gastro-alfresco.co.uk

Further information on the ***National BBQ Association's National BBQ 2009© Campaign, National BBQ Week™, Alfresco Food Fortnight©,*** or any of the other exciting events planned for summer '09, log on to: **www.nationalbbq.co.uk/ www.gastro-alfresco.co.uk**

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Out and About with The GEM

Action film fails to convince Screen Talk

G.I. JOE? TRY G.I. OH NO!

AS the TRANSFORMERS franchise continues to gobble up money left, right and centre like a particularly hungry Devastator, it only proves the theory that toys equal big bucks.

The latest plastic collective to try their luck is GI Joe in *GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra*. We see the story through the eyes of Duke (Channing Tatum), a soldier carrying a biological weapons package who is attacked by a mysterious group of individuals.

Duke and his colleague Ripcord (Marlon Wayans) are rescued by the group known as GI Joe, and take the weapons, created by James McCullen (Christopher Ecclestone), back to their base. However, McCullen isn't quite what he seems, and is intent on stealing back the weaponry for his own maniacal ends, assisted by The Baroness (Sienna Miller)...

There seems to have been a whole lot of things poured into *GI Joe* – explosions, huge set-pieces, CGI effects, muscle men and not-unattractive women. Yet sadly, the only things missing are the key ingredients that actually make a film good, with elements such as plot, decent acting, logic and a strong script taking a back seat to Stephen Sommers' expansive-yet-ludicrous direction, and the result is a film that is dumber than a coach load of Paris Hiltons.

Now there is the argument that summer releases such as these should only concern themselves with spectacle, that things such as dialogue and character motivation are just necessary evils that are sidelined by the big bangs that undemanding audiences enjoy.

Yet the success of the likes of *The Dark Knight* have attested to the fact that Hollywood need not make blockbuster films that appeal to the lowest common denominator – a fact that has been ignored by the makers of *GI Joe*.

There is barely a smidge of intelligence invested in this film, a lazy mess that feels shoddy, lackadaisical, and utterly worthless. It is a film that lacks any redeeming qualities whatsoever, a feeble attempt at creating a new franchise, and one that has the hallmarks of a film prefaced with the phrase 'A film by Stephen Sommers'.

Despite it being only 10 years since he first came to prominence with *The Mummy*, since then Sommers has perfected the art of making films as unintelligible as possible, complete with dialogue that is plain awkward and an over-reliance on computers creating action sequences. The weak *Mummy Returns* and *Van Helsing* are prime examples of this, yet compared to *GI Joe*, the latter in particular resembles a minimalistic art-house film in comparison.

It isn't that Sommers lacks the basics of direction, more that he seems comfortable only when conjuring up explosions and bangs than paying attention to the minutiae of storylines. Much like that famed lover of golden sunsets Michael Bay, he is a director who is technically proficient, yet so over reliant on cliché that he'll never be taken seriously by more discerning film goers.

Here, he simply rehashes elements from other films, the lairs of the two groups feeling like rip-offs of Ken Adams' bold sets for the likes of *You Only Live Twice*, while the climactic underwater battle has more than a faint whiff of the Death Star battle at the end of *Star Wars: A New Hope*.

With a script by the inconsistent Stuart Beattie, along with storyline input from Sommers, and the equally inept David Elliot, you have the basis of something so woeful that Sommers' poor direction merely exacerbates the numerous issues that affect the film.

With some of the most woeful lines of dialogue heard this year (after ordering a woman out of a lift, The Baroness adds "Nice shoes"), coupled with a nonsensical plot that seems to have borrowed liberally from *Team America* (a satirical comedy on American foreign policy remember), it's hardly surprising the film plumbs such depths.

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

Acting-wise, you have some very good actors severely slumming it, and seemingly treating the film with the disdain it deserves. Channing Tatum may be tipped to be one of the many 'next big things' but here he's as dunderheaded a hero you could have with a performance to match.

With the likes of Marlon Wayans, an unrecognisable Joseph Gordon Levitt (who looks oddly like the late Michael Jackson) and Sienna Miller, all failing to justify why the occupation of actor is on their passport.

While Miller and Rachel Nichols enjoy a push-up-bra contest, Jonathan Pryce, Christopher Ecclestone and Dennis Quaid all put in the minimum amount of effort required and offer absolutely nothing.

It's apt that in a film based on a toy range, the performances are the epitome of plastic banality. While the *Transformers* appear to be going from strength to strength (despite the last film's similarly dodgy reception), this is one franchise that should be melted down, no questions asked.

VERDICT – The lowest of the low, *GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra* is an absolute disaster of a film. Useless performances from a cast who appear not to be bothered, a script that appears to have been written by idiots, and yet more unsubtle direction from Stephen Sommers, adds up to a complete waste of time.

Fans of the franchise should get their old toys out and make their own film; it will be infinitely better than this pile of rubbish. *Avoid at all costs*.

The Alarm to headline Barry Waterfront Festival

ONE of the most popular Welsh rock bands, The Alarm, will headline at the free live music stage at Barry Waterfront on Saturday, September 5, along with the Cowbridge band, The Automatic.

The Alarm have been in the rock n roll business for more than 30 years and can lay claim to 15 top 50 UK singles.

Joining them will be local heroes The Automatic. They hit the big time with their huge single 'Monster' and they went on to have further chart success with singles 'Raoul' and 'Steve McQueen'.

The Automatic will be on stage at 6.30pm on Saturday, followed by The Alarm at 8pm.

The festival stage will host a two-day programme of free live music on Saturday and Sunday, September 6.

It will close on Sunday with the Motown and soul sensations, Big Mac's Wholly Soul Band, at 5pm.

The two-day festival will also includes visits from The Tall Ships *Stavros S Niarchos*; and *The Matthew*, a full size replica of John Cabot's ship which discovered Newfoundland more than 500 years ago, and also the Royal Navy mine hunter *HMS Blyth*. All vessels will be open to public over the weekend.

People can also relive the golden age of steam and enjoy the unique experience of a footplate ride on the Great Western Pannier Tank locomotive number 9466.

The Barry Rail Centre – Heritage Rail – will be operating 'out and back' shuttle trips from the Good Shed Site Station at the Barry Rail Centre from 10am-5pm each day. Fares: £5 for adults and £3 for children.

The festival will also include a variety of craft and food stalls, bar area, nautical themed street entertainers, face painting and a fairground.

Entrance to the festival and the live music area is free. Charges apply for ship tours, train rides, fairground and concessions.

Please note, no alcohol or dogs are allowed onto the live music stage site.

Blues to guest at park fun day

A 'Family Fun Day Finale' will take place on August 21, 11am-3pm at Porthkerry Park, Barry.

The event, organised by the Vale Council, is the climax of a fun-filled summer programme.

Play workers will be on hand to encourage families to experience a range of play activities, including mod roc, water-based play, arts and crafts, and den building.

The Porthkerry Park Rangers will offer young people and adults the opportunity to make wood cookies, and to take part in the wildlife trail activity.

The 5x60 and Dragon Sports officers will also be there to offer sports taster activities in athletics, golf and volleyball, and they will be joined by representatives from Vale Karate.

Cardiff Blues representatives will be special guests at the event, with a player on hand to sign autographs and assist in some rugby taster sessions.

Cosmeston Medieval Village
Presents on 30th–31st August
11.00am – 5.00pm

A Medieval Fair!

Falconry Displays
Medieval Games
Armoured Warriors
Have a Go Archery!
Medieval Tales,
Music and Mumming!
A Great Family Day Out & the fun of a Medieval Fair!

MEDIEVAL ALES, WINES & HOG ROAST
For More Information
Call 029 20 701678

Adults £5.00, Concessions and children £2.00, Families [2&2] £12.00

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

Live Entertainment at the
OCEAN LOUNGE
PORTHKERRY

FRIDAY 21ST AUGUST
ALAN'S KARAOKE
Starts 8pm. Food served til 9pm

SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST
LEE CALLAWAY - VOCALIST
Starts 9pm plus Bingo. Food Served til 9pm

SUNDAY, 23RD AUGUST
PORTHKERRY'S GOT TALENT
Starts 7pm. Come along and support or sign up and have a go!

FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST
JAMES ALEXANDER
Vocalist. Starts 9pm. Food served til 9pm

Open for Lunches & Evening Meals Every Day

TRADITIONAL SUNDAY ROAST
From £6.95
Table Service • Served 12 noon - 3pm

Every Wednesday
Open Mic/Acoustic Nights

QUIZ NIGHT EVERY THURSDAY
Curry and a Pint £4.95

LAST CAR BOOT SALE FOR THIS YEAR
SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

Tel. 01446 710362/711538

The Alpha Course
Explore the Meaning of Life
Starts Thursday 10th Sept at 7.30pm
Zoar, Bonvilston
(signposted on A48 near Aubrey Arms)
Further info from Minister 01443 237499
or Secretary: 01446 781309

WHAT'S ON AT ST·DONATS ARTS CENTRE

Tours of St Donats Castle and Gardens
24, 25, 26, 27, 31 August 2.30pm, 3.30pm

Summer Holiday Activities for Children
Musicals Summer School; Mon 24 – Fri 28 August

Bank Holiday Picnic Theatre
Shakespeare's Globe brings *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to St Donats Castle gardens
Mon 31 August 6.30pm

Vale of Glamorgan Festival of Music
6 – 12 September

Acker Bilk and his Paramount Jazz Band
Sold Out! Sun 13 September

Afternoon Cafe Concert
Tues 15 September 3pm
(with free tea and cake)

Nicholas Parsons
A hilarious evening with this greatly loved entertainer and celebrity
Sat 24 October
7.30pm

Near Llantwit Major, Vale of Glamorgan
(Registered Charity No 506146)
www.stdonats.com
Box Office 01446 799100

Taff Valley Buggy Trail

Archery,
Clay Pigeon Shooting,
Weekend activity breaks

Families, Youth Clubs, Schools, Individuals and Birthday Parties Age 7+

Taff Buggy Trails
Pontypridd, nr Cardiff
(029) 2083 1658
www.adventurewales.co.uk

£22 per 45 mins £24.50 per hour

SANDVILLE WELCOMES VISITORS

ABOVE: A group of local young people presenting Gwyneth Poacher with £500 that they had raised for the Sandville.

THE High Sheriff of Mid-Glamorgan recently accompanied the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Jeff Tildesley, on a visit to the Sandville Self-Help Centre in Ton Kenfig.

Sister Gwyneth Poacher was on hand to welcome them, and to conduct them on a tour of the premises, highlighting the facilities available at this unique unit and complex.

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

A warm welcome to the Sandville Self Help Centre from (left to right): Gary Banks, manager, Coun Jeff Tildesley, Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Sister Gwyneth Poacher, and Anthony Tal Williams, High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan.

Seeing the sights in Kenfig Hill!

PHOTOGRAPH by KEITH E MORGAN

COUN Jeff Tildesley, the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, has taken the High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, Anthony Tal Williams on a 'walkabout' in the area.

One stopping-off point on the walkabout was the Kenfig National Nature Reserve (KNNR), where they were greeted by Graham Holmes, the education officer at the reserve.

Illegal parkers are warned off

SUNNYSIDE residents recently told local police at a PACT meeting that parking was a major problem.

In response, officers conducted extra high visibility patrols at peak times to prevent vehicles parking illegally.

PCSO Christian Freeth said: "These extra patrols have made a significant difference to the parking situation in the area. On a recent patrol, there were 22 free spaces available for residents to use."

Garw police target speeding motorists

THE Garw Valley Neighbourhood Policing Team have mounted an operation against speeding drivers in Pontycymmer and Blaengarw.

Recently, officers conducted an 'Operation Cloister', with PC Chris Thomas and PCSOs Janine Ireland and Richard Hopkins hitting the streets with a laser device to record the speed of passing vehicles.

Altogether, three fixed penalty notices were issued, with three drivers being caught travelling at 40mph, 41mph, and 43mph in a 30mph zone.

A total of 12 warning notices were given, 19 stop searches were conducted, and four anti-social behaviour referrals were submitted to the Safer Bridgend Community Partnership following the operation.

PC Chris Thomas, the beat manager for Blaengarw and Pontycymmer, said: "We were determined to continue our patrols to make the roads safer. In total, 200 vehicles were monitored over the three days, and with just three fixed penalty notices and 12 warning notices being issued, it's clear that drivers are getting the message."

Offenders clean up the walkway

THE 'Visible Unpaid Work Team' recently removed graffiti from a busy walkway in Brackla after complaints from local residents.

The project was managed by Communities First, working alongside community members and local agencies included in the Safer Bridgend Community Safety Partnership.

Safer Bridgend community safety and welfare officer, Emma-Louise Maher, said: "Unpaid work is a highly visible initiative, carried out by supervised offenders, performed in local communities in response to local concerns.

"We are happy with the success of the work which has greatly improved an area of Brackla, from where we had received a high number of complaints about anti-social behaviour, graffiti and litter.

"These improvements are not only good for the community, but residents can also see that justice is being done in a visible and rigorous way."

Who wants to build what and where in the borough?

Mr J Hart – **63 Baker Way, Bryncethin, Bridgend** – proposed two storey extension to side and detached garage.

Mr Allan Hopkins – **23 Yr-Ysfa, Maesteg** – extension to rear and c/room and sun room conservatory to front - re-sub of 08/926.

Mr M Tahir – **1 Bay View Road, Porthcawl** – ground floor shower room extension.

Mrs H Jones – **1 Tanyrallt Avenue, Litchard, Bridgend** – rear ground floor shower room extension.

Mr P Lloyd – **Hedd-Le, Penyfai Road, Penyfai, Bridgend** – relax standard conditions on P/06/7765/RLX.

Tudor Properties – **16 Brackla Street Centre, Bridgend** – remove temporary w/shop and replace with new w/shop for hydraulic car lift.

Mr P Gore – **1 Greenacre Drive, Pencoed** – detached garage.

Haraldo Ltd – **Unit 2, The Brogden Building, John Street, Porthcawl** – one fascia sign and one projecting sign.

Countryside Council for Wales – **Merthyr Mawr Warren, Nr Bridgend** – three new NNR information signs.

Mr J Harris – **42 Dol Nant Dderwen, Broadlands, Bridgend** – remove overhanging branches and deadwood to mature turkey oak.

Mr R Cheung – **51 The Woodlands, Brackla, Bridgend** – fell one ash tree ((1989) OBC No 06).

Hafod Housing Association – **rear of 12-13 Ffordd Priordy, Sarn, Bridgend** – works to several trees including crown raising, felling, height reduction etc ((1990) OBC No 07).

Mrs A Parfitt-Edwards – **Caergymryg Farm, Maesteg** – new build farm house built to the original footprint of the previous building.

Mr D Cook – **18 Parcau Avenue, Bridgend** – conservatory to rear of building.

Mr N Leese – **The Globe Inn, 2 Bridgend Road, Porthcawl** – refurbishment of three bedrooms.

Mr D Rees – **14 Simpsons Way, Pyle** – proposed two storey rear extension and conservatory.

Mr and Mrs G Jenkins – **36 Merlin Crescent, Cefn Glas, Bridgend** – proposed single storey side extension for a disabled person.

Mr G Newbury – **20 Austin Close, Porthcawl** – front and side first floor extension.

Mrs E Mathews – **3 Gareg Llwyd, Broadlands, Bridgend** – convert garage to sitting room.

Mr R Jones – **21 Coychurch Road Gardens, Bridgend** – two storey side extension and demolition of existing garage.

Mr T Corner – **Ty Gwyn Kennels and Cattery, Tyn y Caeau Lane, Porthcawl** – conversion of existing double garage into holiday let.

Mrs N Squire – **1 Highfield Avenue, Litchard, Bridgend** – single storey rear extension and side porch.

Peter Alan Limited – **63 John Street, Porthcawl** – change of use from Class A1 to Class A2 for temporary period of 12 months.

Mr A Carter – **land r/o Arwerydd, Porthcawl Road, South Cornelly** – detached dwelling at plot 2.

Mr S Caudle – **land r/o Arwerydd, Porthcawl Road, South Cornelly** – detached dwelling at plot 11.

Mr R Williams – **9 Llynfi Court, Maesteg** – loft conversion.

Mr M Khaliq – **9 Jubilee Gardens, Nottage, Porthcawl** – refurbish pair of semi-detached dwellings including re-roofing of one section and forming two new bedrooms in attic space.

Mr G Pothecary – **4 Banc Gwyn, Broadlands, Bridgend** – two storey extension.

Bellway Homes – **land at Chelsea Avenue, Cefn Glas, Bridgend** – screening and scoping opinion for up to 120 new dwellings, car parking, open space and landscaping.

Wales & West Housing Association – **18 Cricklewood Close, Cefn Glas, Bridgend** – internal alterations, single storey extension to side and associated external works to provide mobility adaptations.

Mrs Christine Davies – **4 Rogers Lane, Laleston, Bridgend** – double garage and construct three-sided hipped roof above existing garage.

PACT MEETINGS

BRACKLA – Thursday, August 27, at 6.30pm in Brackla Junior School.

BRYNTIRION, Laleston and Merthyr Mawr – Thursday, September 10, 7pm at Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston.

COITY – Thursday, September 24, 7pm at Gilead Chapel Hall.

CEFN GLAS and Llangewydd and Brynhyfryd – Monday, September 21, 7pm at Bryntirion Junior School.

MORFA TOWN – Thursday, September 24, 6.30pm at Penybont School, Minerva Street.

MORFA WILDMILL – Thursday, September 10, 6.30pm at Wildmill Community Centre.

OLDCASTLE – Wednesday, September 16, 6.30pm at The Library, Brynteg Lower School.

PENCOED (Penprysg, Hendre and Felindre) – Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at 7pm.

NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

From Bridgend to Llantwit Major – countryside, sea, and heritage!

JOY and Bronte were joined by 14 walkers who boarded the train at different locations between Cogan and Llantwit Major, to travel to Bridgend, before the 13.5-mile trek back to Llantwit – and the journey was more enjoyable, thanks to the very jovial ticket collector who made everyone laugh.

Waterfall from below Cwm Mawr.

Walking downhill at Bridgend, the group took the underpass and followed the clean, fast flowing River Ogmore through Newbridge Fields all the way to New Bridge, where they paused to view the dipping bridge, with large side holes, through which sheep were pushed into the river for their annual dip.

A short road-walk led to meadows, cropped fields and finally Ogmore Moor, where they took the footbridge across the River Ewenny, with the ruined Ogmore Castle in the distance.

Climbing uphill, they passed through a narrow path with over head-high Himalayan Balsam and paused in a clearing in the ferns for morning coffee in warm sunshine. that remained with them all day.

Crossing Beacons Down, St Bridget's Church heralded their arrival at St Brides Major and, passing Pitcot Pool, fed by surface water and springs used by the village and surrounding farms until 1926 – when piped water arrived, they crossed a series of fields by Pool Farm to reach cool woodland at Pant y Slade.

The ginger and white cat from the nearby thatched cottage ignored the dog and made a fuss of everyone, and passing the Heritage Centre, they paused for refreshment before moving on to the pretty walled gardens of the ruined Dunraven Castle.

Built in 1803 on the cliff top above Southerndown as a fortified mansion house by the Wyndham family, the 'castle' was used as a military convalescent hospital during World War One and was occupied until the 1940s before falling into decay.

Descending via the fast crumbling cliff path, they climbed over the rocky foreshore and stopped by the waterfall that cascades from the cliff below Cwm Mawr and enjoyed lunch as the tide ebbed.

Then it was time to cross the newly-washed sand of three beaches, Traeth Bach and Traeth Mawr that led them to the bottom of Cwm Nash, and finally Nash beach, where it was good to see families out playing in the warm sunshine.

Climbing uphill at Nash Point with its heaving car park, they paused to enjoy the view before joining the coastal path, part of the Valeways Millennium Heritage Trail. Then, past Nash Lighthouse, built in 1832 to mark the treacherous sandbanks off the cliffs in the Bristol Channel, following great public outcry after the passenger steamer *Frolic* was wrecked in 1830 with a heavy loss of life.

A pretty copse led them down to the slipway in front of St Donat's Castle, and from Barracks Wood they crossed the stone stile marking King George's Field and descended through the pebble beach at Tresilian Bay to climb back up the cliff, eventually reaching Col-huw Point.

Taking the path above Cwm Col-huw, passing a sleepy bunch of cows that weren't keen on being moved, the group took the meadow by the dovecote and picking up speed, some pavement pounding saw them reaching Llantwit Major with some minutes to spare before the arrival of the train home.

On August 22, meet at 8.15am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a trip up to Gloucester, and a seven-mile easy walk to view the Severn Bore, contact Janet/John on 01446 418514.

A reminder to walk leaders and prospective leaders, or anyone who would like to submit a walk, that on August 25 there will be a programme planning evening for the autumn/winter programme, please contact Val H. on 029 2051 3274.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. For other groups' walk log onto www.ramblers.org.uk

Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr R Willcox – **Plot 8, land off Heol Dewi Sant, Bettws, Bridgend** – erection of two three-bed semi-detached houses with two parking spaces per dwelling.

Mr A Mannon – **5 Fountain Cottages, Aberkenfig, Bridgend** – lean-to rear extension.

Mr D Williams – **Flat 4, 17 Maesteg Road, Tondu** – build wall 2.5m high and 2m inside boundary wall 5m long, roof over to existing height of the boundary.

Mr W Jenkins – **61 Dan y Bryn, Evanstown, Gilfach Goch** – two-storey front and rear extensions.

Peyton Travel – **land at Dunraven Business Park, Coychurch Road, Bridgend** – coach park.

Mr C Yildiztekin – **39 Wyndham Street, Bridgend** – vary condition 3 of 99/937 to vary opening 7am-4am Thursday-Friday, 7am-4am Friday-Saturday, 7am-4am Saturday-Sunday.

Heronsbridge School – **Heronsbridge School, Ewenny Road, Bridgend** – erect a uPVC conservatory to property.

E Williams & Sons – **Byeastwood Farm, Heol Byeastwood, Coity** – proposed steel-framed general purpose storage and handling building.

Mr M Dalton – **9 Tremains Court, Brackla, Bridgend** – rear two-storey extension and car port.

Mr M Williams – **land r/o Plot 5, Mountain Road, Llangeinor, Bridgend** – erect kennels for 'working dogs' and single stable/tack room.

Mr I and Mrs A Evans – **16 Oaklands Road, Bridgend** – first floor extension and attic conversion.

Mr P Webber – **land rear 1/3 Hill View, Pontycymmer, Bridgend** – new detached dwelling.

Neath Port Talbot CBC – **Aberbaiden Tips, near Margam OCCS, Penybryn, Margam** – vary condition 6 of NPT consent P2009/0517 to extend period to complete import of solids and seeding all areas by October 2, 2009.

Mr R John – **81B Newton Nottage Road, Porthcawl** – replace flat roof with pitched roof and finish with concrete interlocking tiles.

SA Brains & Co Ltd – **The Pheasant, Heol Eglwys, Penyfai, Bridgend** – proposed new signage (illuminated and non-illuminated signs).

Mr G Williams – **Plot 3, land adjacent Briary Wood, Brackla, Bridgend** – proposed residential development (one detached dwelling).

Mr A Poole – **The Coach House, Heol y Felin, Heol y Cyw, Bridgend** – conversion of existing coach house to two bedroom dwelling.

Mrs C Thomas – **Plot 4, Tynewydd Farm, Ogmore Vale** – extend time to submit reserved matters (P/06/753/OUT).

Mr A George – **23 Ewenny Road, Bridgend** – two storey extension and alterations to roof.

Mrs M Heffron – **5 Newton Nottage Road, Newton, Porthcawl** – two storey rear extension.

Mr A O'Connell – **17 Canberra Road, Bridgend** – build blockwork garden wall to enclose grass area around property.

Mr P Baker – **1 Mill Lane, Bridgend** – two storey side extension and two storey rear extension.

Mr J Priddle – **31 Village Farm Road, Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle** – erection of workshop/storage unit.

DON'T FORGET THE GARW CARNIVAL!

ONCE again this weekend will be carnival time in Blaengarw, and organisers are promising another spectacular event.

As can be seen from the photographs (below) from last year's carnival parade, imaginations run riot when the Garw Valley lets its hair down.

The parade starts at 12 noon from Victoria Street, Blaengarw.

This year, the carnival theme is 'Victoriana' and more great costumes are promised, with Jules Verne's 20,000 leagues under the sea an inspiration for some, and many other Victorian figures on show.

There is a musical event on Friday evening (August 21) and this takes place on the carnival site.

For more information, go to www.garw-carnival.com

Local man's triathlon to help homeless charity

A COWBRIDGE man recently tackled the Gower Triathlon to raise cash for a Welsh charity that, at the moment, is the poor relation of its English counterpart.

ABOVE: Chris Dennis with wife Julie and their children, James and baby Chloe.

Chris Dennis took up the triathlon two years ago, and he entered the sea for a 750-metre sea swim, a 24km cycle ride and a five-km run.

Chris was raising money for the Street Football Wales charity, which uses five-a-side football to involve people who are homeless or socially excluded.

Chris told The GEM: "What really surprised me about this charity was how poorly funded it is compared to its English equivalent, which has an income through sponsorship of more than £1 million.

"In comparison, Wales is really struggling."

Although the charity is called Street Football Wales, matches are played on proper five-a-side all-weather surfaces. This 'homeless football' has been going on in Wales for the past five years in one format or another.

The highlight of the project is to send a team to the 'Homeless World Cup' which this year takes place in Milan, in partnership with the Big Issue Cymru.

Chris has found the triathlon hard work, but also very rewarding. He did swim competitively when younger, and cycled for fun, but never liked running!

Running is still his "weak link", but he was delighted to cut almost half an hour off his time this year compared to last!

It is not easy for Chris to clear his diary for the training, as he works in Caerphilly and then has to do his share of looking after young James (aged three-and-a-half), and five-month-old Chloe.

He does, however, have the full support of his wife Julie in his fundraising efforts.

Yesterday, after The GEM went to press, Chris handed over a cheque for more than £200 to the homeless squad at a training session.Chris said: "They have only just managed to get the remaining funds needed to send a team to Milan for the Homeless World Cup, which kicks off on September 7.

"Street Football Wales is a great charity and it would be good to give the team the send off they deserve."

More information on how to support the charity can be found on www.homelessworldcup.org/groups/wales

HAS SEARCH FOR A STAR FINALLY ENDED?

COWBRIDGE pupils ended the Cardiff & the Vale Schools track and field season on a high note by winning the boys' team competition and finishing fourth in the girls' section.

For the last 30 years, the year-7 championships have been held as a long, all-day event for boys and girls, usually at Jenner Park and starting at 10am and finishing at 5pm.

Following problems at the 2008 championships, it was decided this year to split into separate afternoons for boys and girls and the change seemed to work well.

In the boys' events, it was interesting to see a possible solution emerging to a long-standing Cowbridge problem. The Messrs Williams – the now retired Hugh and the still contributing Glan – have long expressed their disappointment that they have been unable to unearth a quality sprinter.

Not since the days of ginger-haired Neil Powell in the '90s have they had a boy who can make his mark at Cardiff & the Vale level, or beyond, over 100 metres.

It is very early days, but in George Griffiths they may have found one. In the second half of the meeting, after the relay heats and some of the field events, the young Griffiths won his 100 heat easily, clocking 13.4 seconds into a 1.7 metres head wind, and then went on to take the A final in 13.2 seconds, but aided with a following wind.

That A final provided Cowbridge with 29 of their 225 team points, with Griffiths claiming 17 for his win and team-mate Harry Dowell-Bennett adding another 12 for his fifth place.

There was further success for young Griffiths in the field where he won the long jump with a leap of 4.67 metres, and claimed third place in the high jump thanks to a clearance at 1.40 metres. In the last event of the day, he ran a leg for the Cowbridge team which won the A relay final.

There were four more Vale winners. After his fifth place in the 100 metres, Harry Dowell-Bennett contested the shot, in which he finished seventh, and the discus, which he won with a best throw of 22.47 metres, while his team-mate Josh Thomas was the fastest of the 48 boys who competed in the 800 metres time-trials.

Llantwit had two winners, Hugo Billington in the shot and Ben Brown in the 1,000 metres walk.

The Vale girls matched and almost bettered the boys' performances.

In Chelsea Siirak, they had arguably the top sprinter in action. In the first half of the meeting, the Bro Morgannwg pupil was easily the top 200 metres runner, winning her heat with the fastest time (29.2) of the day and taking the A final in a slightly slower 29.5.

In the 100 metres, after the relay heats, she won her heat in 14.8 and was first to finish in the A final but was disqualified. She bounced back to help the Bro Morgannwg quartet to win the A relay final.

The two middle distance time-trials were dominated by girls who had represented Cardiff & the Vale district at last February's Welsh Schools National cross-country championships.

In the 800, Cowbridge pupils had the two fastest times, with Jordan Carpenter winning and Annabel Curle, who won the high jump at 1.35 metres, finishing second, while Kate Coker (Stanwell, 5:29.7) was faster than Erin Hayes (Llantwit, 5:34.1) over 1,500 metres.

On the field, in addition to Curle's victory in the high jump, there was success in the throws for Ellis Auclas (St Cyres, 17.50m) in the discus and Danielle Dakin-Weston (Llantwit, 19.82) in the javelin.

In the team competitions, mention must be made of one other performance. In finishing third in the boys' section, St Cyres produced its best result for many years.

All the pupils, who won events at these two championships, are due to receive their awards at the Cardiff & the Vale Schools' Track & Field Presentation Evening, which will be held at Cardiff High School on Tuesday, September 8, starting at 7pm.

Vale results: **Year-7 boys** - Jenner Park – 100: Ht 1 (-0.1): 1 Che Pomphrey (St Cy) 13.5; Ht 2 (-3.3): 5 Joshua Slack (St Rich G) 16.4; Ht 3 (-2.0): 4 Gethin Evans-Cooper (Bro M) 15.0; 5 John Fraser (Barry) 15.8; Ht 4 (+0.8): 3 Ben Murphy (Lwt) 14.7; 4 Nick Sherrin (Barry) 14.9; Ht 5 (-0.2): 1 Jake Keating (St Cy) 14.0; Ht 6 (+1.9): 3 Joel Lapton (Stan) 14.4; Ht 7 (+1.5): 2 Niall Curtin (Stan) 14.9; 3 Robert Tucker (St Rich G) 15.6; 4 Kellen Gregg (West) 15.9; Ht 8 (-1.7): 1 George Griffiths (Cow) 13.4; 2 Frank Peake (Bro M) 15.1; 3 Rhys Buglar (Lwt) 15.3; Ht 9 (-0.7): 1 Harry Dowell-Bennett (Cow) 13.6; 5 Sam Sharpe (West) 16.0; A Fin (+1.2): 1 George Griffiths (Cow) 13.2; 4 Che Pomphrey (St Cy) 13.5; 5 Harry Dowell-Bennett (Cow) 13.8; B Fin (-1.6): 2 Jake Keating (St Cy) 13.9; C Fin (-2.1): 6 Joel Lapton (Stan) 16.1.

200: Ht 1 (+1.5): 2 Sam Laity (West) 28.8; 6 Alex Griffiths (Lwt) 32.2; Ht 2 (+2.1): 3 Zak Summerhayes (West) 31.1; Ht 3 (+1.9): 1 Joe Gaughan (Cow) 29.6; 2 Connor Clarke (Lwt) 30.0; 3 Duncan Kieling (Stan) 30.3; 6 Jamie Raisis (Barry) 33.3; Ht 4 (+0.3): 1 Che Pomphrey (St Cy) 28.1; 2 James Walsh (Bro M) 29.4; 3 Oliver Evans (Cow) 29.7; Ht 5 (+2.7): 1 Callum Smith (St Cy) 27.6; 3 Joel Lapton (Stan) 31.4; Ht 7 (+2.6): 5 Tom Bellamy (St Rich G) 36.6; Ht 8 (+0.9): 5 Anthony Goddard (Barry) 33.8; 6 Callum Crabbe (St Rich G) 33.9; Ht 9 (+2.6): 1 Gethin Evans-Cooper (Bro M) 28.2; A Fin (-0.7): 2 Che Pomphrey (St Cy) 27.6; 3 Callum Smith (St Cy) 27.6; 5 Gethin Evans-Cooper (Bro M) 30.3; B Fin (+1.8): 1 Sam Laity (West) 28.0; C Fin (-2.8): 1 Joe Gaughan (Cow) 29.8; 2 James Walsh (Bro M) 29.9; 4 Oliver Evans (Cow) 30.5.

800: 1 Joshua Thomas (Cow) 2:28.6; 3 Ben Owen (Lwt) 2:30.1; 4 Cameron Jones (Cow) 2:32.9; 6 Tomos Havard (St Cy) 2:37.6; 17 Iwan Mepham (Bro M) 2:49.3; 18 Lucas Jones (Barry) 2:49.4; 22 Tim Harry (Stan) 2:50.7; 24 Calvin McCann (Barry) 2:55.2; 26 Joe Solomon (Lwt) 2:55.6; 27 Daniel Bell (St Rich G) 2:56.9; 28 Kieran Daw (St Cy) 2:57.1; 34 Mitchell Heffernant (St Rich G) 3:01.6; 36 Joseph Richards (Bro M) 3:03.2; 40 Kellen Gregg (West) 3:06.7.

1,500: 2 Dafydd George (Bro M) 5:25.8; 4 Rhys Schuster (St Cy) 5:32.2; 6 Iwan Thomas (Bro M) 5:34.6; 8= Arran Bright (Lwt) 5:35.8; 13 Mark Radz (Barry) 5:39.7; 14 Tom Owen (Cow) 5:41.9; 24 Scott Townsend (Barry) 5:56.6; 26 Robert Tucker (St Rich G) 5:59.1; 29 Jordan Row (St Rich G) 6:01.3; 30 James Humage (Stan) 6:01.6; 31 Caynan Bowen (St Cy) 6:02.0; 32 Connor Beattie (Lwt) 6:05.6.

75H: Ht 1 (+1.0): 4 Alan Evans (Bro M) 15.3; 5 Harry Simpson (St Cy) 15.3; Ht 2 (-2.9): 2 Kieran Daw (St Cy) 15.3; 5 Jack Burbidge (Bro M) 15.8; Ht 3 (+1.2): 3 Reece Bennett (Lwt) 15.4; 4 Duncan Kieling (Stan) 15.5; Ht 4 (-2.9): 5 Connor Beattie (Lwt) 17.1; 6 George Kynaston (Stan) 17.2; Ht 5 (+0.9): 1 Brad Rosser (Cow) 14.9; 2 Jamie Raisis (Barry) 16.1; 4 Ashley Steer (St Rich G) 16.5; Ht 6 (+2.4): 2 Tyler Rogers (Cow) 14.6; 4 Daniel Brock (Barry) 17.5; 5 Jack Marshman (St Rich G) 17.7; A Fin (+2.6): 3 Tyler Rogers (Cow) 14.4; B Fin (+0.9): 1 Brad Rosser (Cow) 14.5; C Fin (+0.7): 2 Harry Simpson (St Cy) 15.3; 3 Alan Evans (Bro M) 15.3; 4 Kieran Daw (St Cy) 15.4; 5 Rhys Bennett (Lwt) 15.7.

4x100: Ht1: 1 Cowbridge 53.9; 3 Stanwell 58.3; Ht3: 1 Bro Morgannwg 58.2; 4 Westbourne 60.0 1; 5 Barry 62.7; Ht 4: 1 St Cyres 55.7; 3 Llantwit Major 58.6; 5 St Richard Gwyn 63.6; A Fin: 1 Cowbridge 55.0; 2 St Cyres 55.3; B Fin: 2 Stanwell 58.2; 3 Bro Morgannwg 58.3; 4 Llantwit Major 59.2.

1,000 Walk: 1 Ben Brown (Lwt) 5:56.8; 8 Josh Richmond (Barry ns) 6:45.0; 9 Tom Havard (St Cy) 6:56.6; 10 Marcus Knevett (Cow) 7:07.0; 11 Leon Clifford (Barry ns) 7:14.5; 12 Theo Richards (Barry ns) 7:16.0; 13 Lewis Foran (Barry) 7:21.3; 14 Gareth Hurman (Barry) 7:22.1; 15 Gareth Peake (Bro M) 7:22.3.

HJ: 3 George Griffiths (Cow) 1.40; 6 Declan Thomas (Cow) 1.25; 8 Gareth Peake (Bro M) 1.25; 9= Gethin Evans-Cooper (Bro M) 1.20; 14 Tim Harry (Stan) 1.20; 18 Jake Sutch (Lwt) 1.20; 22 Kieran Daw (St Cy) 1.15; 28 Tom Bellamy (St Rich G) 1.10; Scott Townsend (Barry) & Iori More (West) nh.

LJ: 1 George Griffith (Cow) 4.67; 4 Che Pomphrey (St Cy) 4.18; 5 Callum Smith (St Cy) 4.13; 10 Joshua Thomas (Cow) 3.99; 11 Alan Evans (Bro M) 3.98; 20 Iwan Mepham (Bro M) 3.71; 21 Duncan Keeling (Stan) 3.68; 23 Dylan Robertson (West) 3.67; 25 Calum Hughes (Stan) 3.61; 28 Ben Murphy (Lwt) 3.56; 29 Iorri Moore (West) 3.50; 39 Rees Bennett (Lwt) 3.21; 40 John Frazer (Barry) 3.19; 41 Callum Crabbe (St Rich G) 3.16; 42 Rhys Davis-Herbert (Barry) 3.11; 44 Taylor Fiddler (St Rich G) 2.87.

SP: 1 Hugo Billington (Lwt) 9.65; 2 Sam Laity (West) 9.05; 3 Joe Gaughan (Cow) 9.00; 4 Rhys Forse (Barry) 8.94; 7 Harry Dowell-Bennett (Cow) 8.59; 9 Nigel Lucero (St Cy) 8.29; 11 Richard Evans (Bro M) 7.84; 12 Cengiz Ziyaiddin (Stan) 7.83; 17 Ben Brown (Lwt) 7.38; 23 Trenton Scantlebury (St Cy) 7.16; 24 Jordan Case (Barry) 6.96; 32 David Bell (St Rich G) 6.29; 33 Jacob Conway (Bro M) 6.29; 35 Matthew Holder (Stan) 6.26; 42 Ashley Steer (St Rich G) 5.71; 45 Paul Hicks (West) 5.25.

DT: 1 Harry Dowell-Bennett (Cow) 22.47; 3 Hugo Billington (Lwt) 19.02; 4 Nigel Lucero (St Cy) 17.34; 7 Joe Richards (Bro M) 15.75; 10 Cengiz Ziyaeddin (Stan) 14.65; 13 Mitchell Hesseman (St Rich G) 14.05; Lucas Jones (Barry) nt.

JT: 2 Harry Stubbington (Cow) 26.47; 3 Jack Sutton (Lwt) 25.16; 5 Iwan Mepham (Bro M) 24.03; 6 Daniel Brook (Barry) 21.85; 11 Harry Simpson (St Cy) 20.50; 13 Kellen Greg (West) 19.69; 20 Jack Hazelwood (St Rich G) 12.52; 22 George Kynaston (Stan) 11.25.

Team: 1 Cowbridge 225; 3 St Cyres 155; 5 Bro Morgannwg 109; 8 Llantwit 91; 14 Barry 41; 15 Westbourne 31; 16= Stanwell 24; 25 St Richard Gwyn 4.

Year-7 girls – Jenner Park – 100: Ht 1 (-0.8): 4 Meg Langton-Cryer (Cow) 16.6; Ht 2 (-0.8): 2 Niamh Gallagher (Cow) 15.5; 3 Alice Nottingham (Stan) 15.6; Ht 3 (-2.2): 3 Millie Jones (Bro M) 15.8; 6 Kirsty Hogg (St Cy) 17.2; Ht 4 (-2.8): 2 Paige Lewis (St Cy) 16.5; Ht 6 (-2.3): 3 Rachel Cosier (Bryn H) 15.4; 4 Sophia Swaffield (St Rich G) 16.4; Ht 7 (-2.2): 2 Imogen Sibert (Stan) 15.7; 4 Phoebe Nixon (Lwt) 17.2; Ht 8 (-2.8): 1 Chelsea Sirak (Bro M) 14.8; 2 Shanella Evans (Lwt) 14.9; 4 Gabby King (St Rich G) 16.3; 6 Siobhan Lewis (Bryn H) 19.4; A Fin (-3.4): 3 Shanella Evans (Lwt) 15.1; Disq Chelsea Siirak (Bro M); B Fin (-2.9): 2 Rachel Cosier (Bryn H) 15.5; C Fin (-1.1): 1 Niamh Gallagher (Cow) 15.4; 4 Alice Nottingham (Stan) 15.8; 5 Imogen Sibert (Stan) 16.0.

200: Ht 1 (-1.2): 3 Angharad Poole (Cow) 32.6; 5 Gabby King (St Rich G) 35.2; Ht 3 (-0.2): 1 Chelsea Siirak (Bro M) 29.2; 4 Paige Lewis (St Cy) 33.5; 6 Phoebe Paley (Stan) 34.9; Ht 4 (-0.1): 2 Ellie Atkinson (Lwt) 31.1 Ht 5 (-1.9): 1 Paige Jones (St Rich G) 31.9; 3 Elllie Cridland (Cow) 33.9; 6 Nikita Statham (Bryn H) 38.1; Ht 6 (-0.4): 2 Tamara Summerhayes (St Cy) 33.0; Ht 7 (-0.6): 3 Zola Hargreaves (Stan) 32.7; Ht 8 (-0.8): 1 Millie Jones (Bro M) 30.9; Ht 9: 2 Alannah Goss (Lwt) 34.1; 4 Laura Spencer (Bryn H) 37.6; A Fin: 1 Chelsea Siirak (Bro M) 29.5; 4 Millie Jones (Bro M) 30.7; B Fin (0.6): 1 Ellie Atkinson (Lwt) 31.0; C Fin (-0.4): 1 Paige Jones (St Rich G) 31.5; 4 Zola Hargreaves (Stan) 33.0; 5 Angharad Poole (Cow) 33.1.

800: 1 Jordan Carpenter (Cow) 2:40.6; 2 Annabel Curle (Cow) 2:43.4; 4 Tillie Carter (Bryn H) 2:52.7; 5 Rachel Cosier (Bryn H) 2:53.9; 16 Leah Wanger (Stan) 3:09.2; 18 Ruby Morgan (Bro M) 3:09.7; 19 Caitlin Young (Bro M) 3:09.8; 23 Laura Gale (Stan) 3:14.5; 29 Laura Braggins (Lwt) 3:24.6; 32 Jessie Price (Lwt) 3:28.9; 36 Abby Lee (St Rich G) 3:34.4; 37 Rachel Shalom (St Rich G) 3:36.2; 39 Abbie Keen (St Cy) 3:40.9.

1,500: 1 Kate Coker (Stan) 5:29.7; 2 Erin Hayes (Lwt) 5:34.1; 3 Lauren Williamson (St Rich G) 5:36.4; 6 Chloe Lewis (Stan) 5:59.1; 14 Georgina Wilson-Dixon (St Cy) 6:24.1; 15 Lydia Parsons (Lwt) 6:25.4; 17 Charlie Bowen (Bro M) 6:28.7; 19 Olivia Brown (Cow) 6:30.2; 22 Ffion Davies (Bro M) 6:33.8; 25 Alex Moss (St Rich G) 6:38.8; 27 Chelsea Newman (Bryn H) 6:40.7; 29 Sophie Thomas (Cow) 6:47.1; 35 Tamara Summerhayes (St Cy) 7:28.2; 40 Rowan Smith (Bryn H) 7:48.3.

70H: Ht 1 (-0.6): 2 Jessica Morgan (Bro M) 14.9; Ht 2 (1.6): 1 Hannah Woodward (Cow) 13.8; 5 Lora Spencer (Bryn H) 17.4; Ht 3 (-0.2): 2 Jennifer Hampton (Bro M) 13.6; Ht 4 (0.5): 1 Sarah Lewis (Cow) 14.1; 3 Amy Drew (Lwt) 14.8; 4 Alisa Jones (Stan) 16.2; 5 Charlotte Hobbs (St Cy) 16.5; Ht 5 (0.3): 6 Natasha Small (St Cy) 17.9; Ht 6 (-0.2): 4 Kate Coker (Stan) 17.1; 5 Chloe James (Bryn H) 17.8; Ht 7 (-1.4): 2 Emily Ward (Lwt) 15.6; 4 Shanon Williams (St Rich G) 17.1; Ht 8 (-0.5): 1 Sophia Swaffield (St Rich G) 15.0; A Fin (-1.6): 2 Hannah Woodward (Cow) 13.4; 3 Jennifer Hampton (Bro M) 13.8; B Fin (0.6): 1 Sarah Lewis (Cow) 14.1; C Fin (-0.4): 1 Amy Drew (Lwt) 14.5; 2 Jessica Morgan (Bro M) 14.5; 3 Sophia Swaffield (St Rich G) 14.6.

4x100: Ht1: 1 Bro Morgannwg 58.6; 3 St Richard Gwyn 63.7; Ht2: 2 Cowbridge 61.1; 3 Llantwit Major 61.3; Ht3: 1 Stanwell 62.1; 3 St Cyres 66.2; Ht 4: 4 Bryn Hafren 67.5; A Fin: 1 Bro Morgannwg 58.6; B Fin: 1 Cowbridge 60.2; 3 Llantwit Major 61.6; 5 Stanwell 62.5.

1,000 Walk: 5 Megan Dancey (Bro M) 6:41.0; 6 Kate Llewellyn (Cow) 6:41.8; 7 Kate Spence (St Rich G) 6:46.0; 8 Jessica Morgan (Bro M) 6:47.2; 10 Elenor Morgan (Cow) 7:02.7; 11 Suzie Collins (Stan) 7:09.0; 14 Sophie Lee (Lwt) 7:23.3; 17 Taylor Sullivan (St Rich G) 7:26.7; 21 Adele Mortimer (Lwt) 8:01.2.

HJ: 1 Annabel Curle (Cow) 1.35; 8 Kate Spencer (St Rich G) 1.15; 11 Jennifer Hampton (Bro M) 1.15; 13 Charlotte Hobbs (St Cy) 1.15; 20= Jessica Morgan (Bro M) 1.10; 20= Amy Drew (Lwt) 1.10 & Issie Eddie Williams (Cow) 1.10; 28= Lauren Williamson (St Rich G) 1.05 & Laura Gale (Stan) 1.05; 32= Rowan Smith (Bryn H) 1.05; 37 Emily Ward (Lwt) 1.05; 38= Lauren Bailey (St Cy) 1.00; Nikita Statham (Bryn H) nh; Megan O'Brien (Stan) nh.

LJ: 3 Rachel Cosier (Bryn H) 3.60; 4 Shanella Evans (Lwt) 3.59; 7 Alice Nottingham (Stan) 3.50; 8 Nagan Dancey (Bro M) 3.43; 10 Sarah Lewis (Cow) 3.40; 12 Lilly Evans (Bro M) 3.35; 16 Izzy Eddie Williams (Cow) 3.26; 17 Leah Wenger (Stan) 3.25; 18 Ellie Atkinson (Lwt) 3.22; 21 Kirsty Hogg (St Cy) 3.06; 28 Tillie Carter (Bryn H) 2.97; 39 Lauren Bailey (St Cy) 2.57; 41 Angelina Hoyle (St Rich G) 2.55; 43 Abby Dee (St Rich G) 2.48.

SP: 3 Lydia Hitchings (Cow) 7.09; 4 Hannah Woodward (Cow) 7.05; 10 Taylor Sullivan (St Rich G) 6.58; 11 Danielle Dakin-Weston (Lwt) 6.48; 12 Melissa Lewis (St Cy) 6.42; 26 Adele Mortimore (Lwt) 5.72; 30 Shannon Williams (St Rich G) 5.58; 33 Ellie Blake (Bro M) 5.12; 34 Keeley Durham (Stan) 5.10; 36 Fiona McGuin (Stan) 5.07; 38 Mannon Cooper (Bro M) 4.94; 45 Siobhan Lewis (Bryn H) 3.95.

DT: 1 Ellis Auclas (St Cy) 17.50; 11 Rhian Bimford (Bro M) 14.02; 13 Shanella Evans (Lwt) 13.87; 15 Natasha Stait (Bryn H) 13.39; 18 Paige Jones (St Rich G) 12.27; 19 Caitlin Howells (Cow) 12.16; 23 Vicki Williams (Stan) 10.66.

JT: 1 Danielle Dakin-Weston (Lwt) 19.82; 2 Rachel Shalon (St Rich G) 18.29; 11 Georgina Wilson-Dixon (St Cy) 13.00; 18 Ailsa Jones (Stan) 10.65; 19 Ashley Williams (Bro M) 10.49; 20 Jordan Carpenter (Cow) 9.98; 22 Hannah Moore (Bryn H) 9.36.

Team: 4 Cowbridge 143; 7 Bro Morgannwg 108; 9 Llantwit 98; 11 St Richard Gwyn 66; 13 Stanwell 55; 14 Bryn Hafren 41; 15 St Cyres 35.

Report by Peter Morris

Photographs by Ian Dixon and Emma Williams

ABOVE: Winner Chelsea Siirak (Bro Morgannwg) in the 200m A final.

The C final of the girls' 70m hurdles with Amy Drew (Llantwit), Jessica Morgan (Bro Morgannwg) and Sophia Swaffield (St Richard Gwyn) among the competitors.

ABOVE: Harry Stubbington (Cowbridge, second in the javelin.

Chelsea Siirak (Bro Morgannwg) crosses the line first in the A 100m final but was later disqualified.

Gethin Evans-Cooper (Bro Morgannwg) won his 200m heat and finished fifth in a A final.

ABOVE: Erin Hayes (Llantwit) was second fastest in the 1,500m time trials.

Ben Brown (Llantwit) taking part in the shot competition, later won the 1,000m walk in a time just outside the event best.

Winner Danielle Dakin-Westton (Llantwit) in the javelin).

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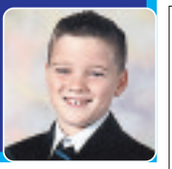

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Karate club believes in nurturing youngsters at the grass roots level

WITH more than 150 competitors from three of Wales' most successful Karate organisations converging on Barry's YMCA Hub on Sunday, a busy day was assured and the aim of developing talent and providing opportunities for tomorrow's champions was fulfilled.

Vale Karate's Holton Primary lunchtime club members Matthew Way and Joanne Loe with Ryan Morris (Welsh Karate Union).

The competition, hosted by Vale Karate chief instructor and head coach Rob Copeland, was a children's development event with more than 30 categories, catering for beginners to black belts from four to 13 years.

As well as children who train at Vale Karate's lunch-time and after-school classes, and at their various clubs in Barry, the Vale, Cardiff and the Valleys, formidable young squads from The Welsh Bushi-Kai and The Welsh Karate Union were also in attendance.

Under-10 medallists: Thomas Meredith, Patrick Coyle and Josh Dwyer.

The event's guest chief referee was The Welsh Karate Governing Body's vice-president Alan Prosser.

As is usual, the day started with the non-combat Kata categories.

The inaugural under-6 section and the categories for six and seven-year-olds were a revelation. The sight of children as young as four displaying competence, determination and focus was one of the highlights of the day, with Vale Karate's four-seven-year-olds who are known as 'The Tigers' in Barry, 'The Samurai' in Cardiff and 'The Dragons' in the Valleys, opening many eyes to the potential of children of this age.

As well as providing specific classes for children with special needs, the club has provided a competitive pathway for these youngsters by persuading many competition organisers to include special needs Kata events all over the UK.

Karate for those with disabilities and special needs takes a big step forward in 2009 as the British Championships will have four special needs Kata categories.

Ten youngsters took part in this category at this development event, with their displays earning them warm and well-earned applause.

Karate's young Kata squad members, among the best in Britain, and dominant in Wales, showed the spectators the standard that the hundreds of children who train with Vale Karate are eager to emulate.

As always, top drawer performances were given by Kloe Christoforato, Brook Peckham, Jessica Kinson, Hannah Gibbon, Bradley Christoforato, Sion Kinson and Nick Sherrin, all showing the spectators why so many open titles have come their way.

The Kumite events that followed were full of passion and tension, with the crowd cheering their favourites, and it was a sign of the friendship and respect that the three organisations share, and the discipline that is so important in traditional karate, that all decisions were accepted without question and with warm congratulations all round.

For the more experienced young competitors present, this was an ideal warm-up for one of the highlights of the domestic calendar, the Welsh Youth Open.

Under-9s enjoy tournament

BARRY Athletic under-9s played their third cricket tournament of the season.

Due to it being a re-arranged fixture at Radyr, it was especially difficult to raise a team, so a big thank you goes to Liam Kenny and Tomos Hubbard for helping us out.

Barry managed to win two league matches against Radyr and Lisvane and came a very close second in a match against a mixed under-11s and under-9s Radyr side, which really did test the Barry boys.

There were some great bowling displays, especially from Joel Merrick, Lewis Davies and Rhys Woolmer.

On the batting side, Calvin Fahey was solid in defence but also ensured we had runs on the board when opening each innings.

Finally, the man-of-the-match award was a very close call between Saul, Calvin and Lewis, but for his continuous effort, taking a couple of wickets, and hitting three boundaries in one game it went to Saul Robertson.

DW

BARRY STAGS CRICKET HIT BY MIXED RESULTS

First team stumble to defeat

BARRY Athletic CC 1st XI were under the new leadership of Nathan Baker as they played host to Ponthir.

Runs were hard to come by in the opening 10 overs, with Ponthir only on 24-0. Ponthir began to score freely, taking the score to 144-0 from 33 overs.

Wickets from Billy Usswald (3-44), Nathan Baker (4-75) and a run out meant Ponthir completed their innings on 236-8 from 50 overs.

Opening batsmen Lee Morgan and Billy Usswald looked comfortable in the first 10 overs. However, with the score only 26-0, there was a long way to go and a lot of hard graft was needed. The loss of Usswald kick-started a slide by the Stags.

Ian Gadd, Nathan Baker, Craig Thomas, Scott Malpas and Anjan Ganapathy were all soon back in the pavilion.

An impressive batting display by Lee Morgan (88) and a late cameo from Jophin Reji (30 not out) wasn't enough as they fell 42 runs short, dismissed for 194 in 49.3 overs.

This result wasn't good for Barry, as they slipped back to the bottom of Division Two. Fortunately, with a new system being introduced next season, there is no relegation.

Seconds crush Ponthir

MARTIN Baker's 2nd XI travelled to bottom of the table, Ponthir, needing a win to maintain their unbeaten run.

Ponthir had only managed to accumulate 10 batting points from 10 games, meaning that they weren't the strongest batting side in the league.

This showed and the bowling attack of Simon Phillips (8-1-16-0), Joe Myers (7-1-20-1), Maqsood Anwar (10-3-17-2), Martin Baker (6-2-10-2), Andy Ellis (8.3-1-17-3) and Ashley Baker (5-0-18-2), bowled Ponthir out for a miserable 108 from 44.3 overs.

Barry opening batsmen, Damon Leake and Owain Davies netted an opening partnership of 76, and the Stags were never in trouble.

However, Davies was trapped lbw for 34 and in came skipper Martin Baker. He and Leake took immediate control of the game and reached the target within 28 overs.

Leake finished on 42 not out and Baker finished on 11 not out.

Defeat for Thirds

BARRY Athletic 3rd XI, under the captaincy of Ian Gadd, travelled north to face Brecon.

The fine weather and dry pitch meant that Brecon won the toss and chose to bat first.

Wickets for Dominic Lack (9-0-32-2), Richie Roberts (10-0-38-3), Jophin Reji (5-1-14-2) and a run out from Ashley Baker, along with Callum Twomey (9-0-36-0) and Andy Ellis (7-2-9-0), helped the Stags to restrict Brecon to only 133-8 from their 40 overs.

The second innings began with Ashley Baker and Tom Ellis in the middle. The first casualty came when Baker skied the ball to deep square leg and was caught for 12.

Wickets kept tumbling afterwards as Barry went from 26-1 to 50-7, with Ian Gadd, Tom Ellis, John Phillips, Jophin Reji, Sam Eastman and Richie Roberts all back in the pavilion for low scores.

However, a partnership of 38 brought some respectability to Barry with Richard Eastman (11) and Andy Ellis, top scoring with 31. When Eastman and Ellis departed, a late cameo performance from Callum Twomey (10 not out) saw the team fall 24 runs short after being bowled out for 109.

A disappointing result for the Stags leaves them in the bottom half of the table with three games to play.

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GREENSLADE TAKES ANOTHER WELSH TITLE

BOWLING'S premier singles tournament, the Men's Open Singles Championship of Wales, produced a feast of high quality bowling recently.

In a record breaking year, host club Dinas Powys produced six of the eight quarter-finalists, two of the semi-finalists and the eventual winner – Jason Greenslade.

Jason continues to make the tournament his own, winning the coveted trophy for the eighth time, another record.

In a thrilling final, Jason defeated Hugh Morris of the Pontyclun club by 21-14 shots.

Earlier in the day, Hugh defeated two-times winner Neil Collett of the Penhill club, and Jason defeated fellow Dinas Powys bowler David Vowles.

Sunday's final was the climax of another successful week of high quality bowling at the Dinas Powys Open.

Thanks to all who entered the tournament and to the club members, both ladies and men, whose contribution in organising the tournament, and to the success of the week was again immense.

The club is most grateful to its sponsors, Spire Cardiff Hospital and 50-plus Insurance Services, and to the advertisers in the programme, without whose generous donations the tournament could not take place.

Special thanks must go to Clive and Kate Todd who organised the schedule of matches throughout the week with the professionalism that we have come to expect.

We look forward to another successful tournament in 2010.

AD

ABOVE:
The chair of the tournament committee, Philip Hanley, presents the winners trophy to Jason Greenslade.

JOY AT WELSH MASTERS FOR SCHOOL

More tournament success for Cadoxton Tae Kwon Do

CADOXTON Schools of Tae Kwon Do recently attended the third of a series of five Welsh masters tournaments, hosted by Mal Johns of WOMMA.

In her first tournament, Emily Stavert came away with second place in the point sparring. Hayley Mattey went one better by taking first, while Lucy Newman continued her improvement by taking third, this time in the pattern section.

Getting back into the tournament scene, Liam Rees showed that he had not lost any of his ability by completing a double – first in continuous and first in point sparring. Not to be outdone, Morgan Harrhy once again completed a double first in continuous and point sparring.

Bradley Halford took first place in continuous and second in point sparring. Morganne Gomez Jones took fourth in the pattern section. Morganne came up against a formidable Liverpool fighter in both the continuous and point sparring finals, taking second place in both categories.

Improving with every tournament, Matthew Rowles took third place in both the continuous and point sparring.

Also continuing her improvement, Charlotte Sullivan took third place in the point sparring.

Sixteen-year-old Jamie Halford came of age at this tournament, showing that all the extra training he is putting in getting ready for the World Games has paid off. Jamie had some of his hardest fights to date, eventually taking first in continuous and point sparring categories and second in weapons.

Having to wait all day for the adult categories to start, Jon Hawkins had three extremely hard fights in the men's continuous sparring, coming away with a well deserved victory.

Having just competed and with no rest, Jon was in action again in the point sparring. This time, an exhausted fighter took second place, not forgetting the third he achieved in the patterns.

Matthew Bennett, Thomas Haysham and Morgan Stavert Hawkins fought well, just missing out on the medals this time round, but it won't be long before they are on the medal rostrum.

The club are now looking forward to August, when they will be attending the World Games in Maryland, USA.

For further information and training time, telephone 01446 406372 or 07811 934079.

ABOVE (Left to right) BACK ROW: Jamie Halford, Morganne Gomez Jones, Emily Stavert, Jon Hawkins; MIDDLE ROW: Matthew Rowles, Morgan Harry, Liam Rees, Bradley Halford; FRONT ROW: Thomas Haysham, Charlotte Sullivan, Lucy Newman, Morgan Stavert Hawkins and Hayley Mattey (missing from the picture is Matthew Bennett).

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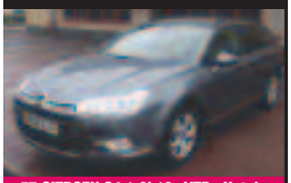

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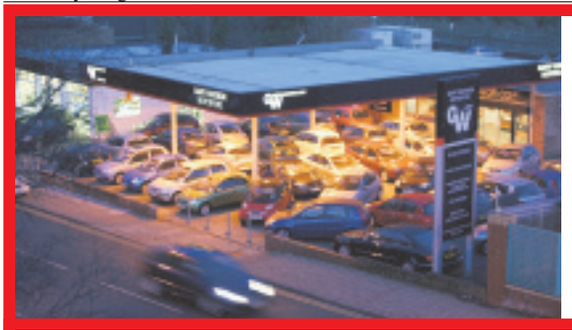

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195/60R15 Bridgestone ER300	£68.71	£130	£250	195/60R15 Avon ZV3	£58.66	£112	£220	195/60R15 Federal	£40.38	£78	£150
195/65R15 Bridgestone ER300	£61.37	£115	£220	195/65R15 Avon ZV3	£51.34	£97	£195	195/65R15 Federal	£41.58	£79	£150
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225/45WR17 Bridgestone RE050	£102.96	£195	£380	225/45WR17 XL Avon ZV5	£85.94	£165	£320	225/45WR17 XL Hero	£49.06	£95	£180
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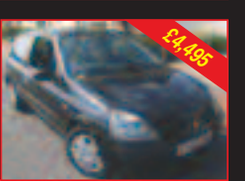
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55 **PEUGEOT Partner Totem 1.9 (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in met ice blue, pas, c/l, e/w, cd, 33k £5495
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04 **RENAULT Megane 1.6 Expression 4-dr.** Finished in met blue, pas, c/l, e/w, a/c, radio/cd, 56k £4295
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52 **VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Club 5-Dr.** Finished in met silver, pas, c/l, e/w, 63k £2795
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06 **BMW 320D SE (Diesel) Touring 5-dr.** Finished in black saphire met, alloys, a/c, radio/cd, 1 owner, fsh, 69k. £10995

05 **VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2S 3-dr.** Finished in mars red, pas, r/c/l, e/w, a/c, 34k. £4795

55 **VAUXHALL Meriva Design 1.7 CDTi (Diesel) 5-dr.** Finished in met silver, alloys, a/c, sunroof, radio/cd, 55k £5795

04 **BMW 530D SE (New Shape) (Diesel) Auto 4-dr.** Finished in mystic blue, **full black dakota leather,** alloys, a/c, radio/cd £11295

54 **VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.6S FSi 5-dr.** Finished in met grey, pas, c/l, e/w, a/c, radio/cd, 6 speed, fsh, 65k. . . . **£6695**

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GEM sport

CRUSADERS YOUNGSTERS ON THE END OF HEAVY DEFEAT

GB Lions under-18s are taught harsh Aussie lesson

Australian Schoolboys	**66**
GB under-18s Community Lions	**0**

GREAT Britain's under-18 Community Lions, with players from Celtic Crusaders, were taught a harsh lesson when they went down to defeat in the opening Test against the Australian Schoolboys in Canberra.

The tourists, who were unbeaten in their opening three matches, lost 66-0 to a powerful young Kangaroos outfit, many of whom are already contracted to NRL clubs.

The young Lions found themselves 22-0 down at the break and were overwhelmed in the second half.

Aussie wingers Haydon Hodge and Faleula Finau grabbed hat tricks.

The tourists showed great effort and held the hosts out for the opening quarter hour but, after three consecutive sets of six on their own line, went behind when second rower Ryan James went in for the opening, unconverted score.

A dropped ball from a scrum allowed Cheyse Blair to double the lead in the 20th minute and two touchdowns in three minutes – both on last tackle plays – saw Jack Stockwell and Blair make it 18-0.

In the final play of the half, Hodge squeezed in at the corner and two minutes after the break, Finau showed great footwork to register his first score.

More sustained pressure saw Hodge in again and full-back Meipele Morseu supported a James break to cross, Jordan Rankin's conversion making it 40-0.

A superb offload from Aussie hooker and skipper Cameron King sent in Blake Austin, and Finau completed his treble with two tries in seven minutes, the first from a kick on the last tackle and the second the best of the game when he went in from 40 metres.

Hodge found the line again for his third, and Austin claimed the Australian Schoolboys' 13th touchdown with a dummy and go.

GB coach Carl Briscoe was naturally disappointed by the outcome: "I couldn't fault the boys for their efforts, Jonathan Pownall was exceptional at full-back. He must have stopped at least another four tries," he said.

"There was an obvious gap, this is the cream of the Australian game at this level and we are bringing through talented youngsters from the amateur ranks but the experience will, hold us all in good stead It was a terrific occasion."

The second and final test is tomorrow, August 21.

Great Britain: 1, Jonathan Pownall (Leigh Miners Rangers); 2, Rhys Fenton (Celtic Crusaders); 3, Nicholas Johnson (West Hull); 4, Elliott Miller (Millom); 5, Adam Clay (Leigh Miners Rangers); 6, Callum Phillips (West Cumbria); 7, Scott George (West Cumbria); 8, Glenn Riley (West Cumbria); 9, Tom Connick (Pilkington Recs); 10, Anthony Symons (Celtic Crusaders); 11, Michael Allen (Widnes St Maries); 12, Jacob Fairbank (Elland); 13, Mark Wool (Celtic Crusaders) (capt).

Subs (all used): 14,Mathew Lowe (St Cuthbert's, Wigan); 15, Sam Hopkins (Leigh East); 16, Luke Tomlinson (East Leeds); 17, Martin Grey (Leigh Miners Rangers).

Body blow for the Crusaders as star Aussies are lost

by PHILIP IRWIN

CELTIC Crusaders' tough first year in Super League became a whole lot tougher this week when it was announced that six key players are to be deported.

The six players, all Australian, must leave the country after immigration officials ruled they had breached visa regulations.

The UK Border Agency (UKBA) has ruled that visas used to bring the Australians to play in Wales were invalid.

The Crusaders, who are playing in Super League for the first time this season, have struggled against many of the top teams, and recently took the decision to play matches at Rodney Parade in Newport.

A club statement said they had co-operated with the UKBA and would abide by its ruling.

A UKBA spokesman said: "As the result of an intelligence-led investigation into possible immigration offences among players at Celtic Crusaders, we can confirm that six Australian nationals have been served with papers confirming that they are illegally present in the UK.

"We now expect these individuals to leave the country. If they refuse to do so voluntarily, we will enforce their removal.

"The players are prohibited from working in the UK with immediate effect."

The six players are Darren Mapp, Mark Dalle Cort, Josh Hannay, the team captain Jace van Dijk, the leading try-scorer Duggan and Damien Quinn.

Crusaders' chief executive Mike Turner was doing his best to look on the bright side when he spoke to the media about the shock news.

Pointing out that Celtic Crusaders had co-operated fully with the UK Border Agency investigation, he said that the club accepted their findings.

Although accepting that losing the six star players would be a big loss, as all had made a big contribution in making Celtic Crusaders a Super League club, he said that it would give younger players a chance to get valuable experience.

The younger players, of course, include 'home-grown' Welsh players, and they will get a strong dose of that experience this Saturday at Rodney Parade, when they take on the rampant Leeds Rhinos, who are in top form at the moment, in Newport.

Van Dijk, Duggan and Quinn made their debuts for the club in 2006 with Mapp, Dalle Cort and Hannay arriving the following season.

It has been reported, but not confirmed, that they entered the country on student or holiday visas.

The six players have until Monday, September 7, to leave the country and are banned from the UK for 10 years.

Each of them has the right to appeal, but they can only do so after leaving the country.

ABOVE: Tony Duggan, one of the six Celtic Crusaders, pictured on a recent charity walk.

Maesteg is to host the Welsh RL final

WALES Rugby League and Celtic Crusaders have announced that the weekend of August 21-23 will be their biggest of 2009, with six matches being played in south Wales over three days.

However, the Super League match between the Crusaders and Leeds Rhinos is at Rodney Parade in Newport on Saturday, August 22 (kick-off 6pm).

The Welsh Premier Rugby League Grand Final will take place on a Friday night for the first time, when Blackwood Bulldogs take on the winners of Bridgend Blue Bulls and Valley Cougars at Maesteg RFC on August 21 (kick-off 7.15pm).

The general manager for Wales, Caro Wild, said: "We looked at a number of location options before settling for Maesteg. Maesteg has hosted rugby league all year as the regular home ground for Crusaders reserves, so we know they're going to do a very good job.

"It's the first time that the final will be played in the evening and a floodlit game will certainly add to the atmosphere and make it a special occasion for players and fans alike."

Celtic Crusaders have announced that their reserves will play their final game of the season against Leeds Rhinos at Blackwood's ground, Glan-yr-Afon Park on Saturday, August 22 (kick-off 2pm).

Deano and Tim at the double

COWBRIDGE jockey Deano Coleman's long journey to Market Rasen on Saturday paid off handsomely when he landed a double for Aberthin trainer Tim Vaughan on *Zafar* and *DarkSideofTheMoon*.

Both horses were well backed and the top-weighted *Zafar* came home three lengths ahead of *Sadler's King,* and seven-year-old *DarkSideOftheMoon* scored by three lengths from *Amalfi Coast*.

Earlier in the day at Bangor Racecourse in north Wales, Vaughan had saddled the German-bred *Walamo* to take the opening hurdle race and *Shanahan* to win the handicap chase.

Luck was on Vaughan's side as the former won by a head and the latter by a neck. Both were ridden by stable jockey Richard Johnson and Vaughan was completing a four-timer for the second time this season.

At Sunday's Southwell meeting, Llancarfan trainer Evan Williams took the Southwell Gold Club Claiming Hurdle race with *Super Ross,* ridden by Donal Fahy.

BRIAN LEE

PYLE AND KENFIG LADIES GOLF RESULTS

West country pair win open day

OPEN week four ball better ball:

1st Wendy Remshed and Marlies Growald – 42 points, (Burnham and Berrow); **2nd** Ros Beere and E George – 40 points (Langland Bay), on a count back from; **3rd** Kay Sinclair and Sheila John from Pyle and Kenfig.

RNLI and GUW August Medal: Winner – Sue Forbes 88-18-70; runner-up: Jackie Jones 101-29-72.

MW

Shed crew are clear at the top

SHED Crew Warriors continue to wreck havoc on the rest of the Bridgend six-a-side leisure league as Reece Lewis helped them to a 2-0 win over second place AC Brackla.

B Attack only know one way forward, and they demonstrated this with a 2-0 defeat of Craig's Rejects United, to move clear at the top of the First Division.

Velindre Foundation Fundraisers had a Leon Smith-inspired 2-1 victory over The Bluebirds.

If anyone is interested in joining the League, they can call 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisureleagues.net

The GEM Quiz League questions

HERE are this week's questions:

1) Which 19th century British Prime Minister is the only Prime Minister to be buried in St Paul's Cathedral?

2) The Tupomaros were a terrorist group in which South American country?

3) In the famous Ba-Baas vs All-Blacks match in 1973 the legendary Edwards try included a contribution by which Welsh No 8 playing that day?

4) Other than a musical instrument, what type of creature is a Bongo?

A RUDGE
Hon Sec, BGQL

QUIZ ANSWERS:
1. Duke of Wellington.
2. Uruguay.
3. Derek Quinnell.
4. Antelope.

CRUSADER MARK LEADS THE WAY DOWN UNDER

Under-18s tour match	
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	**6**
GREAT BRITAIN	**48**

CELTIC Crusaders Mark Wool was inspirational in Adelaide as he led Great Britain under-18s to their third win of their historic tour Down Under, the Lions beating South Australia 48-6.

The Pontyclun-born Crusaders man dominated midfield from stand-off, while Alex Webber, originally from Ferndale, scored two tries. Crusaders' Anthony Symons also starred as the Lions had the perfect boost for their opening Test match against the Australian Schoolboys in Canberra.

Pilkington Recs full back Danny Filson led the way in the scoring charts, with 20 points from two tries and six goals in a terrific individual display, as the tourists built a 38-0 lead at the break with a stunning first half performance.

GB coach Carl Briscoe reflected that his side was going into the First Test in good shape: "We lost our way a little in the second half," he said, "but I am very pleased overall with the quality of football produced and could not have asked for more than three wins out of three."

Man-of-the-match Wool added: "It was a top performance in the first half, we scored some great tries and there was some very good rugby league by the boys." **(See Test match report above, top left)**

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